CANTON'S

FALLEN HEROES

CIVIL WAR

WWI

WWII

KOREA

VIETNAM

LEBANON, GRANADA, PANAMA

DESERT STORM

AFGHANISTAN

IRAQ

By
Edward R. Piana

Dedicated to Veterans of all wars
And to
Tony Andreotti
Canton Veterans' Agent

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CANTON'S FALLEN HEROES
OF
THE 19TH, 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES
WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN
DUE TO
HIS DEDICATION AND DEVOTION

Anthony "Tony" Andreotti Canton Veterans' Agent

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INTRODUCTION

The material presented in this booklet and in the supplement consists of brief biographical articles about Canton's Fallen Heroes from the Civil War through the current engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq. The World War I articles are the work of Ed Lynch; they had appeared in print previously. Both Ed and I authored those on World War II, Korea and Middle East Canton servicemen and women. Recently I completed the write up on the Civil War which also acknowledges research efforts by Susan Doody, Frank LaBollita and Jim Roache. Susan and Frank delved into identification issues to clarify such matters as dates, spelling of names and questions regarding casualties of the conflict who apparently were excluded from Canton's official list of war dead. For the 1997 bicentennial, Jim Roache had written a detailed account of Canton's participation in the Civil War. That became part of the publication "Canton Comes of Age" which I have used as a valuable reference point.

Some years ago, the same Jim Roache graciously made available to me original issues of the Canton Journal from the World War II era. Out of those old weeklies, I was able to find and photostat articles on casualties and activities of the Canton men and women in uniform at the time. Less focus may appear to be placed on the other wars. This is not intentional but merely a reflection on the relative scope of the conflicts, the availability of information and the lack of first-hand accounts as is the case for World War I.

For the years 2004-2005-2006, Agent Andreotti extended an opportunity for recognition of World War II veterans and their individual accomplishments both military and civilian. Anyone who wished to recommend a local veteran for an award was urged to submit a completed questionnaire on the person. The Veteran's Agent and the Veteran's Council then went through a review and acceptance process. In those three years, 65 veterans have been honored with the Canton Distinguished Veteran Service Award at services held in conjunction with Veteran's Day. Each recipient was presented with a copy of his/her biographical sketch and a framed certificate created for the occasion by Walter Molis, a talented and dedicated member of the Veteran's Council.

Those 65 brief articles are gathered in a separate accompanying supplement. In the future, they may be of some value as recollections of the individuals honored and also as a collective historical summary of the activities and engagements experienced by those local individuals who served in World War II.

I apologize for any errors and omissions; they are unfortunate and unintentional. The booklets cannot be corrected; however, addendums always can be inserted at will.

Edward R. Piana
2007

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CANTON'S CIVIL WAR FALLEN HEROES

By
Edward R. Piana

Under the creative direction of Veterans Agent Anthony Andreotti, Canton's Fallen Hero program soon will be extended to its combatants of the Civil War.

During his six year term as Canton's Veteran Agent, Andreotti has demonstrated not only innovation and persistence in his goals but also a true sincerity in wanting his community to recognize its living veterans before they become part of a past generation.

Through his leadership, Operation Recognition to award high school diplomas became a reality. He formed a Veterans Honor Guard; promoted veterans monthly meetings, organized Veterans Day breakfasts; introduced school presentations; recorded approximately 1300 names of WW II veterans in the Washington DC roll of honor; preserved the first hand war-time experiences of veterans on videotape; brought the Vietnam War Moving Wall Memorial to Canton; renders on-going support for today's active duty military personnel, spearheaded the relocation of all Canton war memorials to one honored location and brought to reality the rededication of 47 street locations in honor of fallen heroes from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq.

Now he is reaching back to extend the Fallen Hero program to Canton's casualties of the Civil War. In so doing, he is honoring their individual memories and refreshing the community's collective mind about that great internal struggle which came about from the divisive sectionalism and which culminated in a truly preserved Union.

One hundred fifty years ago, Americans fought Americans in the bloodiest conflict in this nation's history. More than 600,000 died on the battlefields and even more suffered terrible wounds.

From the very outset of the war in 1861, Massachusetts led the North in responding to President Lincoln's appeal for troops. In the very first week of the war, Massachusetts raised four regiments of infantry, a battalion of rifleman and a battery of artillery – all equipped at the Bay State's expense.

One of the most famous units was the 20th Massachusetts Regiment which was known as the "Harvard Regiment" because so many Crimson graduates filled the officer ranks. Its commander, Colonel William Raymond Lee, was a West Point product but many other officers came from the close-knit Harvard ranks of Boston's elite families – Palfrey, Lowell, Putnam, Abbot, Cabot, Patten, Ropes, Hallowell, Bartlett and of course, Paul and Edward Revere as well as Oliver Wendell Holmes who lived to become a famous Supreme Court justice who served well into his ninety-third year of life. Holmes suffered serious wounds at Bells Bluff; then again at Antietam and a third wound at Chancellorsville near Fredericksburg.

In the publication, "Canton Comes of Age 1797-1997" Jim Roach, local historian and stalwart of the Canton Historical Society wrote a concise account of Canton's military involvement in the Civil War. An extensive summation of the

part played by Canton's citizen soldiers may be found in Chapter 4 of the Canton Historical Society, Bicentennial Book.

Mr. Roach noted that the first local unit to answer President Lincoln's appeal was the Fourth MA Regiment of Volunteer Militia. The unit consisted of men from the surrounding towns. Canton's Company A was known as the Union Light Guards. Canton enlistees served in many other regiments as well as 4th and 20th Regiments. As a small community of less than 3500 inhabitants, the town would suffer the loss of 30 men in battle. At least nine others died in the years immediately following the war.

The first local casualty was George Bailey at Gaines Mill, Virginia on June 24, 1862. As noted below, Susan Doody's research reveals a possible discrepancy in identity between George R and George W Bailey, both of whom died but in different battles on different dates and in different units. One was a Canton resident, the other from Lynn. George R. Bailey appears to be Canton's son. Three were killed on the same day at the Battle of The Wilderness on May 6, 1864. John O'Brien, whose great-grandchild, Virginia Galligan Hagerty, is a well-known Canton resident, served two enlistments. Mrs. Hagerty has noted that between enlistments, O'Brien returned to Canton where he built a home opposite the present Hagerty residence. It stands today as the last house on the right side of Neponset St. before the "Willow Road" continues on toward Norwood. During his second enlistment, O'Brien, Robert Blackburn and John Denningham were killed on May 6, 1864 at The Wilderness. Thirteen more died in engagements in Virginia and an equal number perished in Louisiana; three in Maryland and one in Canton. The majority held the rank of Private; three were Corporals and three were Sergeants. Dr. Edward Revere was a brevet Lt. Colonel. His brother, Paul Revere, was not listed as a Canton casualty. Eight are known to be buried here in Canton and three others in nearby towns.

Some gaps and discrepancies exist in the records of the time. The recent research by Susan Doody of Canton has raised questions on the total number of Canton casualties. Colonel Frank LaBollita also has delved into official records of the MA National Guard. His findings as well support the inclusion of additional Canton soldiers on the casualty list. Ultimately however, the official list of Canton Civil War Fallen Heroes can include no more than the individuals honored on the Canton Town Hall tablets. It must be assumed that careful research at the time of the October 30, 1879 dedication determined those thirty individuals to be the correct listing of Canton's casualties of the Civil War. Reasons for differences in tabulations cannot be determined at this late date and are left to mere speculation.

In 1866 following the war, the Grand Army of the Republic was founded in Decatur, Illinois. Veterans of all branches of the Union armed forces who had served between April 1861 and April 1865 were eligible for membership in local "Posts". Canton veterans formed Revere Post #94. It was the Commander of the national GAR, John A. Logan, who issued the often-quoted General Order No. 11 in 1868 for the 30th of May to be set aside as a day of remembrance of the sacrifices made by fallen comrades. Thus began the tradition of Memorial Day or Decoration Day as it was known at the time.

Oliver Wendell Holmes delivered a famous Memorial Day speech on

May 30, 1884 to the John Sedgewick Post #4 in Keene, New Hampshire. Many of his words have been requoted or paraphrased by important historical figures including President Kennedy. Holmes captured the significance of remembering the sacrifices of the dead warriors of both North and South. He certainly would have spoken for Canton's Civil War Fallen Heroes, for its survivors and for all Americans at the time when he concluded his presentation with these words:

> "Every year – in the full tide of spring, at the height of the symphony of flowers and love and life – there comes a pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of death. Year after year lovers wandering under the apple trees and through the clover and deep grass are surprised with sudden tears as they see black veiled figures stealing through the morning to a soldier's grave. Year after year the comrades of the dead follow, with public honor, procession and commemorative flags and funeral march – honor and grief from us who stand almost alone, and have seen the best and noblest of our generation pass away. But grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear the funeral march become a paean. I see beyond the forest the moving banners of a hidden column. Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death – of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope and will."

As time took its toll of their ranks, both the local and national GAR organizations faded into history. Canton's two final surviving GAR members were William D. Ryerson who died in July 1932 in Nova Scotia and Colonel John Billings.

Ed Lynch, renowned local historian whose devotion to Canton's past is well established through his many writings on local personalities and events quickly pinpointed the date of death and obituary of the last surviving Canton GAR member. Colonel John D. Billings was born in 1842 and died in Belmont, Ma. on August 28, 1933. Colonel Billings served in the 10th Ma. Battery of Light Artillery at Gettysburg, Cold Harbor and Richmond, Va. After the war, he graduated from Bridgewater Normal School and became a teacher/principal at the Webster School in Cambridge for 56 years. He was a charter member of GAR Revere Post 94. He is buried in Canton Corner Cemetery.

In 1949, the final national encampment of the GAR took place in Indianapolis and the last surviving national member died in 1956 at age 109.

Although all Civil War veterans long ago passed into history, their individual and collective contributions to America's unification can never be forgotten. Here in Canton, the flags now dedicated in their honor wave gently on 30 street corners along with those of their Canton fallen comrades from other wars. Together, they symbolize a Boulevard of Fallen Heroes whose sacrifices do not pay homage to war but rather serve as reminders of the futility of conflict and for the need for peaceful solutions to man's controversies.

CANTON CIVIL WAR DEATHS

Name	Rank	Unit	Death	Location
George R. Bailey	Priv.	18th Ma. Regt.	Died: Jun 14,1862	Gaines Mill, GA.
Walter S. Glover	Priv.	22nd Ma. Regt.	KIA: June 27, 1862	Gaines Mill, GA.
William Spillane	Priv.	15th NY.Eng.	Died: July 14, 1862	Harrison's Landing,VA.
John McGinley	Priv.	16th MA. Regt.	KIA: Aug. 29, 2862	Second Battle,BullRun,VA
George C. Corbett	Priv.	29th MA. Regt.	Died: Sept. 10, 1862	Craney Island,VA.
Dr. Edw.J.R.Revere	Lt.Col.	20th MA. Regt.	KIA: Sept. 17, 1862	Antietam, MD.
George W. Kehr	Cpl.	20th MA. Regt.	KIA: Sept. 17, 1862	Antietam, MD.
Charles F. Adams	Priv	20th MA. Regt.	Died: Oct. 2, 1862	Frederick, MD.
James Donahue	Priv.	20th MA. Regt.	KIA: Dec. 11, 1862	Fredericksburg, VA.
Andrew L. Hill	Priv.	18th MA. Regt.	KIA: Jan. 21, 1863	Fredericksburg, VA.
Walter Davenport	Priv.	35th MA. Regt.	KIA: Dec. 19, 1862	Fredericksburg, VA.
Charles O. Fuller	Wagoner	4th MA. Regt.	Died: Jan. 28, 1863	New Orleans, LA.
John M. Pooler	Artificer	1st MA. Lt.Art.	Died: Mar. 14, 1863	White Oak Church,VA.
John Geddis	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: Apr. 12, 1863	New Orleans, LA.
William B. Foster	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: April, 21, 1863	New Orleans, LA.
William E. Brewster	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: June 3, 1863	Brashear City, LA.
John W. Ayer	Sgt.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: June 5, 1863	Brashear City, LA.
Owen Shonsey	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: June 6, 1863	Brashear City, LA.
Charles E.Bootman	Sgt.	4th MA. Regt.	KIA: June 14, 1863	Port Hudson, LA.
Stephen H. Smith	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	KIA: June 14, 1863	Port Hudson, LA.

Jerome B. Snow	Cpl.	4th MA. Regt.	Died: July 10, 1863	New Orleans, LA.
Asahel White	Priv	4th MA. Regt.	Died: July 26, 1863	New Orleans, LA.
Thomas Curran	Priv.	42nd MA. Regt.	Died Aug. 19, 1863	Canton, MA.
Charles C. Knaggs	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died Aug. 24, 1863	Baton Rouge, LA.
Long B. Crowther	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died Aug. 27, 1863	Baton Rouge, LA.
Joseph Jenkins	Priv.	4th MA. Regt.	Died Aug. 29, 1863	Baton Rouge, LA.
Robert Blackburn,Jr.	Sgt.	20th MA. Regt.	KIA: May 6, 1864	The Wilderness, VA.
John Denningham	Cpl.	19th MA. Regt.	KIA: May 6, 1864	The Wilderness, VA.
John O'Brien	Priv.	58th MA. Regt.	KIA: May 6, 1864	TheWilderness, VA.
Charles D. Slattery	Priv.	14th MA.Lt.Art.	Died: Jan 13, 1865	City Point, VA

America engaged in four major wars during the 20th century. In 1917 our country became a late participant in WWI. Nevertheless, Canton suffered fourteen casualties in that war. Many of those fatalities were due to diseases of the times that struck the military and civilian populations as well. One of the town's Fallen heroes was the devoted and dedicated nurse, Helen Homans, who died at her post in France.

The scope of WWII for the nation and the community overwhelmed every other event of the 20th century. For that reason selective comments on that war and Canton's role are expressed separately in succeeding pages.

Only five years following the end of WWII, the Korean War erupted. To quote retired Army Colonel W.E.Weber, "in terms of percentages, the Korean War was the bloodiest of the 20th century in which American soldiers fought." Canton lost three of her sons in Korea. Two of them had served in WWII as well.

The Vietnam War began with 900 military advisors dispatched to help South Vietnam. Ultimately, 550,000 American forces were serving in that war zone. After A 15 year span, the war finally came to an end. Among the American casualties were four young men from Canton whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Wall and on Canton's monument honoring all Vietnam veterans.

With those historical perspectives in mind, Tony Andreotti did not hesitate when the opportunity arose for him to assume the position of Canton's Veterans Agent in 1999. He had a successful career as a businessman, selectman, hospital director, alumni head and entrepreneur. Now he would formulate a plan that would redefine his new position to include much more than the conventional duties and responsibilities of the office.

Agent Andreotti's innovations and dedication over the past four years have not only benefited veterans but also the entire community. An incomplete list of Tony's accomplishments includes the organization of Operation Recognition (WWII, Korea, Vietnam high school diploma awards), erection of 47 Fallen Hero street signs, establishment of a Veterans Council, creation of a Veterans Burial Honor Guard, sponsoring Veterans monthly coffee hours, publishing the Veterans Corner weekly news briefs and quarterly newsletter, promoting Veterans Day breakfasts, coordinating the expansion of Memorial Day exercises, introducing veterans' school presentations, researching and recording the names and biographical sketches of Canton WWII veterans in the Washington, DC Roll of Honor, listing more than 1300 living Canton veterans in a computer file, video taping for posterity various veterans' recollections from their respective wartime experiences and now acknowledging present-day families and service personnel. And all the time, rather than glorifying war, he has put emphasis on the folly of war as the solution to the issues facing the nations of the world.

May this compilation serve as a simple yet enduring tribute to Tony Andreotti for his contributions to Canton, particularly in his role of Veterans Agent.

Edward R. Piana
2003

RETURNED FROM THE WORLD WAR -1917-1918

VOLUME I

Adamchuk, Kaney T. Private
Amado, Joseph Burgess Cook
Antanewisus, Zigmas Private
Arthur, Frederick A. Private
Baldwin, Harry B. Sapper
Barnie, David A. Wagoner
Bennett, Ruth Nurse
Blanc, Louis H. Private
Bowerman, Wilmot J. Sergeant
Bowley, Robert N. Private
Bowmar, Ralph B. Private
Briggs, Ralph E. Sergeant
Brightman, Louis Private
Briody, Leo V. Corporal
Broderick, George F. Private
Brown, John J. Private
Brown, Marion N. Nurse
Brown, Roy G. Radio Electrician
Bruns, Lucas I. First Lieut.
Bryan, Albert W. Jr. Private
Buckler, Horace A. Private
Buckley, Timothy S. Machinist's Mate
Burt, Phillip V. Ensign
Cabot, Samuel Major
Calhoun, William J. Engineman
Capen, Florence R. Yeowoman
Capen, George P. First Lieut.
Capen, Howard B. Private
Capen, Oscar D. Jr. Boatswain's Mate
Caridu, Amielo Seaman
Carney, John T. Private
Carr, Gerald A. Private
Carroll, John L. Sgt.
Carroll, Joseph F. Pvt.
Chadwick, Helen K. Nurse
Clayton, Henry C. Ens.
Clayton, Lawrence L. Capt.
Clerkin, Bernard L. Pvt.
Clinton, Edward F. Pvt.
Cobb, Franklin B. Pvt.
Coda, John Pvt.
Cohen, Max Pvt.
Connors, William J. Sgt.
Corey, Harold A. Sgt.
Craig, Arthur C. Seaman
Crean, Timothy J. Pvt.
Croft, Willis N. Pvt.
Crowd, Daniel E. Pvt.
Crowd, David C. Pvt.
Crowley, David Pvt.
Crowley, John F. J. Seaman
Cunningham, John P. Private
Cunningham, Gunners Mate Jos. F.
Curra, R. Sinclair Quartermaster
Curran, Edward J. Sgt.
Curran, James J. Pvt.
Curtis, William F. Pvt.
Cushman, J. Herbert E. Pvt.
Cushman, Raymond W. First Lieut.
Cushman, Robert G. Pvt.
Daggett, Thomas W. Pvt.
Dahlke, Emil A. Electrician
Dailey, William F. Pvt.
Dallahan, Robert V. Pvt.
Daly, Augustine P. Pvt.
Daly W. Clifford, Sgt.
Daly, J. Oliver Bttn.Sgt.Maj.
Daly, Joseph J. Chief Yeoman
Dana, George I. Corp.
Danahy, Joseph P. Pvt.
Danahy, Thomas P. Sgt.
Dardano, Walter Pvt.
Davenport, Roger B. Sgt.
Debison, Glenna Nurse
DeCarvallio, Amaden Seaman
Delvecchio, Fiorenzo Pvt.
Dimars, Joseph Pvt.
Dimascio, Loreto Cook
Dings, Wilfred E. Quartermaster
Dockray, James A. Quartermaster
Dodge, Stanley H. Corp.
Donahue, Patrick J. Pvt.
Doody, George A. Sgt.
Doody, James Sgt.
Duffin, James V. Ens.
Dunbar, Donald N. First Lieut.
Dunn, John J. Sgt.
Dykeman, Charles L. Pvt.
Eastman, Gertrude V. Nurse
Ellery, John E. Pvt.
Endicott, Charles K. Wagoner
Estey, Arthur E. Mechanic
Farrow, Richard Waggoner
Farwell, D. Fraser, Second Lieut.
Fecteau, Joseph Corp.
Fee, Stewart D. Pvt.
Fenno, Jesse K. Second Lieut.
Finn, John F. Army Field Clerk
Flanagan, Leo F. Pvt.
Flood, Daniel J. Corp.
Flood, William H. Sgt. Maj.
Foskett, Kenneth H. Ordnance Sgt.
Gallo, Pietro, Pvt.
Homans, Helen, Nurse

RECORD OF SERVICE MEN, WORLD WAR 1, 1917-1918, taken from 2 volume, leather-bound record stored in vault at CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Fox, Dorothy Nurse
Fox, William E. Mach.Mate
Freedman, Louis Private
French, Eliot C. Pvt.
French, William C. Sgt.
Galligan, Leo J. Corp.
Galligan, Thomas J. Yeoman
Garland, Harold L. Pvt.
Garland, Joseph E. Seaman
Garzara, James Corp.
Gavagan, Francis J. Sgt.
Gee, Joseph P. Pvt.
Goncalves, Frank Pvt.
Gorman, Philip Pvt.
Goss, William W. Pvt.
Grafton Thomas J. Pvt.
Gray, Edmund A. Sgt.
Gray, J. Henry Pvt.
Guild, Herbert H. Wagoner
Hagan, James W. Gunner's Mate
Haley, Leon T. Pvt.
Harrington, George W. Pvt.
Harrington, Joseph F. Pvt.
Haverty, William J. Corp.
Healy, George V. Sgt.
Healy, Gerald J. Corp.
Healy, John F. Boatswain's Mate
Heinemann, Walter L. Storekeeper
Hemenway, Lawrence First Lieut.
Hemmingsen, Alfred Pvt.
Hill, Edwin J. Pvt.
Hill, Francis T. Pvt.
Homans, William P. Capt.
Hopkins, Thomas J. Pvt.
Horgan, Thomas Jr. Pvt.
Howard, Louis E. Ch.Quartermaster
Hughes, Alfred E. Pvt.
Hughes, John C. Pvt.
Hughes, Thomas L. Pvt.
Hunt, George H. Pvt.
Jenks, Frederick A. Second Lieut.
Johnson, Angelo C. Sgt.
Johnson, Walter H. Ch.Carpenter's Mate
Joyce, John J. Pvt.

Kabakow, Morris Seaman
Karsupski, Charles Seaman
Karsupski, Henry J. Pvt.
Kehoe, Frank Pvt.
Kelle, Wilder E. Pvt.
Kelleher, Cornelius E. Pvt.
Kelleher, Cornelius J. Pvt.
Kemp, Lysander S. First Lieut.
Kendall, Frank L. Wagoner
Kenefic, Frank M. Corp.
Kennally, Thomas A. Seaman
Kennally, William C. Sgt.
Kenney, Edward P. Second Engineman
Kinne, Charles H. Corp.
Lake, John F. Pvt.
Lebens, Glorinah Nurse
Lechas, James N. Pvt.
Lehan, Daniel F. Corp.
Lehan, Florence Pvt.
Lehan, T. Joseph Seaman
Lemkin, Maurice Pvt.
Lentell, Alotta M. Nurse
Lentell, Benjamin R. Pvt.
Lentell, Prescott W. Pvt.
Lewis, Cyril S. Pvt.
Linder, David H. Pvt.
Linder, John F. Jr. Cadet
Logan, Melvin R. Pvt.
Lowry, Russell W. Pvt.
Luce, Dean S. Capt.
Lukaszewicz, Edward Pvt.
Lyman, Henry Major
Lynch, Edward J. Pvt.
Lyons, Joseph H. Sgt.
McAloney, James E. Gunner
McCabe, Patrick R. Pvt.
McCormick, Patrick J. Corp.
McDermott, Francis L. Pvt.
McDermott, Henry M. Pvt.
McDowall, Robert S. Driver
McEnaney, Francis X. Regimental Sgt.Major
McKenna, Charles F. Pvt.
McKenna, Peter G. Capt.
McLean, John W. Sgt.
McManus, Francis J. Pvt.
McMorrow, Henry L. Pvt.
McMorrow, James L. Yeoman
McMurtry, Edward P. American Field Service
McPherson, William E. Major
McSweeney, Michael J. First Sgt.
Maguire, Dennis J. Chaplain First Lt.
Marsden, Alec K. Drummer
Marshall, William Cook
Meninno, Rocco Pvt.
Merriam Harold W. Pvt.
Mittell, Harry L. Pvt.
Mongini, Franco Pvt.
Mongini, Peter Pvt.
Morrison, Fred E. Pvt.
Murphy, Daniel I. Pvt.
Murphy, Michael P. Fireman
Murray, Michael J. Electrician
Murray, Thomas H. J. Coxswain
Nichols, W. Roy Wagoner
O'Brien, George A. Sgt.
O'Brien, John J. Sgt.
O'Connell, George W. Pvt.
O'Neill, John H. Pvt.
Oldziesky, Stanley J. Corp.
Olsen, Emil T. Musician
Olsen, Frederic Gunner
Paradiso, Giovanni Pvt.
Perry, Samuel Pvt.

RECORD OF SERVICE MEN, WORLD WAR 1, 1917-1918, taken from 2 volume, leather-bound record stored in vault at the CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Perzechino, Guiseppe Private
Pierce, Reuel A. Capt.
Porcaro Carlo, Pvt.
Porcaro, Cesare Pvt.
Pozzo, Victor Pvt.
Quennell, Alvin W. Second Lieut.
Quinn, Patrick Pvt.
Rastelli, Pasquale Pvt.
Reardon, Allen J. Sgt.
Reardon, Florence C. Sgt.
Reardon, James F. Sgt.
Richards, Howard F. Pvt.
Richards, Louis Seaman
Richardson, John First Lieut.
Robertson, George Pvt.
Robie, Dona R. Corp.
Robinson, Norman L. Cook
Rockett, Edward J. Pvt.
Rogers, James E. Corp.
Romanowski, Stanislaw, Seaman
Rosenblatt, Samuel Corp.
Russell, William C. Sgt.
Ryan, Francis A. Sgt.
Sadler, Philip E. Seaman
St.George, Charles Pvt.
Sanford, Malcolm A. Chief Yeoman
Seaman, Ernest Sgt.
Semer, Nochem Pvt.
Shaw, Russell W. Sgt.
Shea, John F. Sgt.
Sheehan, David W. Pvt.
Shorter, William S. Pvt.
Sidelinger, Clayton C. Pvt.
Simons, William Corp.
Simpson, Charles W. Pvt.
Skehan, James L. Pvt.
Skehan, John M. Bttn.Sgt.Major
Southworth, Clarence L. Chief Yeoman
Standish, Karl Regimental Sgt.Major
Stevens, Everett C. Sgt.
Stewart, Charles F. Sgt.
Stoddard, Ira L. Pvt.
Stott, James Sgt.
Strickland, Harold E. Pvt.
Sumner, Larra T. Seaman
Swardlick, Edward Seaman
Sweet, Calvert J. Chief Yeoman
Sweet, W. Eller Pvt.
Swiskne, Joseph Pvt.
Taber, Sherwood H. Capt.
Taylor, Arthur J. Pvt.
Tenney, William N. Major
Thomas, George E. Wagoner
Titus, Walter F. Electrician
Tolman, Gilbert Jr. Ensign
Treffrey, Villa M. Nurse
Tsonos, Nicholas G. Pvt.
Veale, John J. Pvt.
Walsh, Thomas F. Corp.
Ward, William F. Chief Carpenters Mate
Weckbacher, George F. Corp.
Weldon, James L. Coxswain
Wells, Norman A. Musician
Wenesky, Herbert H. Pvt.
Wentworth, Chester T. Pvt.
White, William J. Water Tender
Whitty, Thomas E. Sgt.
Whitty, William L. Corp.
Wild, James R. Sgt.
Williams, Edward A. Shipfitter
Wilson, Lester S. Torpedo Gunner
Winslow, Harold L. Lieutenant
Wolfe, Leonard P. Ensign
Wood, David Carpenter's Mate
Zanazzo, Battista Private

Sergeant Edward J. Beatty

Edward J. Beatty was the first Canton native killed in action in World War One. Born here on April 10, 1892 to Edward and Mary (Boutilier) Beatty, he was one of two boys in a family of seven children. The Beattys resided in a home on Wall Street, and the elder Beatty was employed by Edison Electric for over 20 years before being disabled by a stroke in 1912.

Beatty was a graduate of Canton public schools and was a convivial chap, a good mixer with a host of friends. He was a carpenter by trade and a member of the Canton Catholic Club, whose chaplain, Father Dennis Maguire, was a close friend and correspondent. Beatty had an interest in things military even before World War One erupted in Europe in 1914.

On May 26, 1913 he joined the Roxbury Horse Guards, a militia unit, and re-enlisted annually through 1916. When President Wilson called out the 26th Division to go to the Mexican border in 1916 to combat Pancho Villa's incursions, Beatty's cavalry outfit had a six-month tour of duty on the Rio Grande. By then, Beatty had been promoted to Sergeant and had received several medals for his proficiency in riding and shooting

On April 6, 1917, the day America declared war on Germany, Canton had a patriotic parade from Neponset Street to the Town Hall, led by National Guardsmen Arthur Thomas, Tom Danahy, Frank Howard and Beatty. All were destined for combat in France, and Beatty and Thomas would lose their lives overseas.

After the Mexican Border service, Beatty was transferred from the cavalry to Company B, Machine Gun Battalion and sailed for France on September 22, 1917.

Beatty was a prolific letter writer; much of his correspondence to family members, friends and clergy survives. He wrote well and vividly of his experiences in combat. There is a poignant letter

Sergeant Edward J. Beatty

to his father describing a white Christmas Day in 1917 in the shelled French village in which he was billeted. But Beatty's father never received his son's letter, for he died at age 63 of another stroke on New Years Day 1918 — a year to be of double sorrow for his widow.

Sergeant Beatty noted in his letters that he had encountered in France old Canton friends like Bill Whitty and Bill Monahan and that they had shared packages of smokes, socks, and cookies sent from Canton. Like many American doughboys, Beatty was imbued with a patriotic fervor. "I wouldn't have missed this chance for the world," he wrote home, "for you know we boys are taking a hand in the making of the world's history, or at least an important part of it, and that in itself, is reward enough for us."

In February he was in the first line of trenches, and his battalion was in eight separate engagements with the enemy. In letters to friends he described the horror of trench warfare, the constant shelling, the trenches knee-deep in mud and water, and the destruction of life and property

On April 20, 1918 at the Battle of Seicheprey, the Germans launched a massive assault during which 26-year-old Edward J. Beatty was killed. Some weeks would elapse before information concerning the manner of his death would reach Canton by means of a letter from Lieutenant Robert V. Dallahan of this town who met an eyewitness of the sad event. The Germans had overrun the American lines with a powerful troop concentration that Dallahan estimated as over 20 to through in time, and Beatty — with a few others — set up a rear guard to permit the rest of his company to seek a better defense point.

Wounded and exhausted, Beatty did not abandon his machine gun post. His efforts permitted most of his comrades to re-form, but he was killed by a bayonet thrust.

"His work is the pride and the talk of his company," Dallahan wrote. "His body was interred in Mandres, France.

A funeral mass for him at St. John's was attended by townspeople who overflowed the capacity of the church. In addition to family members, mourners were led by members of the Revere Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, while Canton closed its businesses in tribute to him.

As Canton's Civil War veterans had formed the Revere Post of the G.A.R. in honor of Paul Joseph Revere and Joseph Warren Revere, both killed in that conflict, so, also, in 1920 did the veterans of World War I name Canton's new American Legion Post in the name of Edward J. Beatty.

On August 9, 1921 Beatty's body came home for burial. He lay in state for 24 hours at Memorial Hall before the funeral service the following Sunday afternoon at St. John's. He was buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

Hundreds passed his casket at Memorial Hall and attended the services. The casket was draped with the American flag and mounted on a caisson driven by four horses. His body was accompanied by 20 men from his old company as well as family members, Legionnaires, and surviving Civil War veterans. Those grizzled Civil war veterans of 1921 were of the same age as today's World War Two veterans.

Ed Beatty was the only person in town history to be waked in Memorial Hall. It was a deserved honor. His courage and patriotism is needed again in these trying times.

A memorial signpost for Edward J. Beatty will be dedicated on Sunday September 23 at 2:00 P.M. at the corner of Neponset and Washington Streets.

Private Patrick Joseph Cronin

The program initiated by Veterans' Agent Tony Andreotti to honor Canton's war dead by means of sign posts erected in their neighborhoods will begin on September 12, with the dedication of a memorial to Patrick J. Cronin at the corner of Bolivar and Crane streets.

Cronin was born here on March 17, 1894, the feast day of the saint after whom he was named by his parents, Michael and Mary (Mahoney) Cronin.

He was a good-looking young man and had such a congenial personality he was nicknamed "Sunny."

Cronin graduated from St. John's School — which in those days encompassed nine years of study. He was active in his church and was a member of the Canton Catholic Club, a recreational, athletic, and educational facility. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

Cronin worked as a spinner at Draper Brothers Company, and on November 25, 1914 he married a local girl, Katherine Ellen Redmond. He went into the army on October 4, 1917 — part of the first large levy of Canton boys to enter the war. Accompanying him that morning were Tom Whitty, Frank McEnaney, John F. Reardon, Bailey Davenport, Cornelius Kelliher, Dave Crowley, John McLean, Bill Goss, Mike McSweeney, Russell Shaw and Bill Haverty. All — except Cronin — would return safely to Canton after the war.

Private Patrick Joseph Cronin

Cronin began his service at Camp Devens in Company K, 302nd Infantry Regiment, before transferring in February of 1918 to Company C of the 165th Infantry. He was assigned to Camp Merritt New Jersey — from whence he went overseas on March 12, 1918. The 165th Regiment was part of the 42nd Division — known to history as the Rainbow Division, because it was the first post Civil War division with soldiers from both north and south in the same unit.

A regiment from Georgia fought side by side with the Fighting Sixty Ninth of New York — even though in the Civil War they had fought ferociously against each other at the Battle of Fredricksburg.

There were some memorable men in the Rainbow Division, notably its Chief of Staff, Colonel Douglas MacArthur, a daring Irishman from Buffalo named Colonel "Wild Bill" Donovan — who later founded the Office for Strategic Services in World War II, the poet Joyce Kilmer, Lieutenant Oliver Ames of Easton, and the padre Father Francis Duffy, whose statue is in Times Square in the section known as Duffy's Square.

Katherine Cronin's last letter from her husband was dated July 14, 1918 and contained only words of encouragement for his wife. Over four months then went by without any news of him.

Finally, on November 26 — one day after the couple's fourth wedding anniversary and two weeks after the Armistice — the dreaded telegram from the War Department arrived: Pat Cronin had died July 31 from wounds suffered in action at the battle of the Oureq River. The cruel news devastated many in town, for Cronin was well liked and highly regarded. His burial site is not known, and it was believed that he was the victim of an artillery hit. He was cut down at the age of 24, before he had a chance to establish a family and live a long and useful life. His widow never remarried.

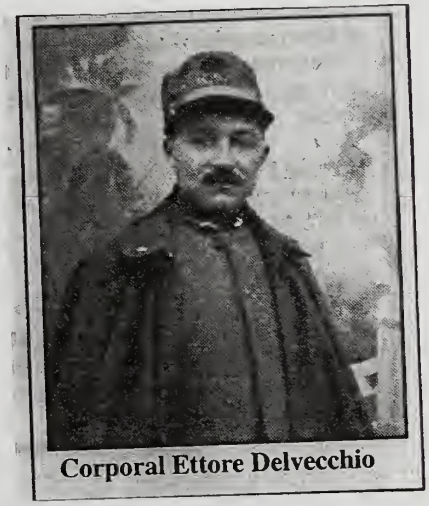
Millions of people pass Father Duffy's statue at Broadway and 37th Streets every year. It is certainly appropriate for Canton to have its own memorial at Bolivar and Crane Streets honoring another man of the Rainbow Division, Patrick Cronin.

Corporal Ettore Delvecchio

Ettore Delvecchio was born in Gattinara, Italy on December 3, 1890 and came to Canton in 1910 to be with an uncle, Vincenzo, who had emigrated in 1906.

During the early 1900s, a significant number of Italian families — many from Gattinara — settled in Canton and worked in the leather industry. They lived in the Neponset and Norfolk Street area, and Lillian Mann taught some of their children at the neighborhood Revere School. The families from Gattinara were to become respected and prominent citizens in Canton, and their descendants have carried on their proud tradition.

Ettore was here for about five years before returning to Italy to enlist in the Italian army. He was in the service for about six months when Italy entered World War I as part of the allied forces.



Corporal Ettore Delvecchio

In the First World War, Italy was involved in fierce conflict with Austria and Germany in battles in the Alps. The fighting was long and bitter and under the most adverse weather conditions imaginable. No quarter was asked or given.

Gattinara was about the same size as Canton was at the time, and its monument to those who died in the war records over one hundred names.

Ettore had a cousin, Fiorenzo Delvecchio, who had also made the trek from Italy to Canton and back to Italy to enlist in the Italian army. Fiorenzo's parents continued to live in Canton, but Ettore's closest living relatives — his mother and sister — remained in Italy. Probably because of wartime conditions, little was known here in Canton of the fate of the two cousins. As recently as July 11, 1919 — eight months after the end of the war — the local paper listed the cousins as being on active duty. On Armistice Day 1919 a memorial service was held for the war dead — without any mention of Ettore.

But in the early 1920's the sad news was received that Ettore Delvecchio had been killed in action on December 13, 1917 at Il Beretta in one of the battles of the Piave River. He had first been reported by the Italian government as missing in action, but later, one of his comrades in arms gave an eyewitness account of Ettore's death.

When he died, Ettore was a Corporal in the 7th Company of the 252nd Infantry. Only twenty-seven years old, he had proven himself to be a daring, adventurous and patriotic young man. A memorial sign for him will be dedicated on September 19th at 2:00 P.M. at the corner of Norfolk and Neponset Streets.

It Seems Like Yesterday by Ed Lynch

Lieutenant Allan W. Douglass

The wedding of Rachael Priest Capen and her handsome lieutenant was the social event of the late winter of 1918.

The bride came from an old and prominent Canton family, and her Uncle Sam was the Sheriff of Norfolk County. The Capens were not the richest folks in town, but they were well-off and well-respected. The groom, Allan W. Douglass, was not a local boy. Born in Plainfield, New Jersey on September 25, 1895, he grew up in Buffalo and was educated there.

First Lieutenant Allan W. Douglass

Douglass was a student at Yale when America declared war, and he promptly enlisted in the army in April, 1917. He was sent to Madison Barracks, New York and later to Fort Niagara. He was then assigned to Battery C, 301st Field Artillery at Camp Devens and commissioned a lieutenant on November 8, 1917. He met his bride-to-be — possibly through her brother, Lieutenant George Philip Capen — and the two fell in love.

Their wedding on March 2, 1918 was a small but beautiful affair at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Capen of 479 Sherman Street. The lieutenant was in full uniform, as was the bride's brother. The best man was Ensign James Slocum of New York, while the maid of honor was Elizabeth Kuhn of Pittsburg. The groom's little sister, Jean, was flower girl.

After their vows were pronounced, the wedding cake was cut with the bridegroom's service sword.

The wedding guests were from the elite of Canton society. The Capens were represented by the bride's parents, as well as by Lieutenant Capen and the bride's cousin, Corporal Howard Capen.

(Continued from page 1)

Her uncle, the sheriff, and his wife were present, as were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar D. Capen and their sons Oscar and Arnold.

The guest list included old Canton names like Mr. and Mrs. Kinsley Dunbar, Miss Evelyn Dunbar, Mrs. Gilbert Tolman, Rodney Tolman, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fenno, Miss Mary Fenno, Mr. and Mrs A. L. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lincoln Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman of Evanston, Wyoming, Miss Shirley Wattles, Dr. and Mrs. Charles I. Porter, Miss Helen Porter, Miss Marion Billings, Miss Dorothy Gray and Mrs. Madeline Campbell.

The groom was on a ten-day leave for the wedding and the honeymoon, and the young couple took off in a gaily decorated auto to begin their new life together.

Unfortunately, their time together would be cruelly short in duration. Douglass was transferred to Camp Jackson and Camp Sevier — both in South Carolina — before going overseas on May 28, 1918. He was chosen by Brigadier General Winn to be an aide-de-camp on his staff. It was an enviable and cushy job, but not one to Douglass' liking, for he wanted to be a more direct participant in the war effort.

In a letter to his bride — written just four days before his death — Douglass told her of his decision. "You will be surprised to know that I am once more back with my regiment — after ten days of an interesting but profitless experience," he wrote. "The change was brought about voluntarily, and at my discretion, as I wasn't sent home like a naughty boy.

"I cannot tell you much about it until after the war — but will say that when a man's mind has been taught to think in terms of war, and specifically trained to practice certain principles, it is quite a change, and a come down to be a valet, as it were, and to think principally of dress and manners ten kilometers behind the lines. It just wasn't me, and when the opportunity was ripe, I respectfully requested my action — not without the offer of my job as a permanent matter, however.

"I once had the sneaking thought that perhaps on account of you that I'd better stay, but almost instantly thought better of it. For I know where you want me, where I can do the most good, and where I am counting most for you. And I'll take my chances with the rest. In the meantime, enjoying the pleasures of life is the one redeeming feature of this war — personal and intimate association with men whom I am growing to love like so many children. And it is not an unpleasant feeling to know that the feeling of friendship is returned.

"As if to test my resolution to get back to real work, instead of

Lt. Allan W. Douglass...

It Seems Like Yesterday by Ed Lynch

disguised loafing, and true fellowship, instead of careful diplomacy, it fell to my lot to spend from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. on the march. There is nothing in this hectic, ever-changing life that brings more comfort to a man than the swing of a good horse beneath him, and the dim shape of horses, guns, and a score of husky mountaineers that will follow you to hell, pushing along in the dark. And I know they will, for they told me so that night. The experience alone was worth a trip back.

"You know a great deal of movement over here is done at night — on every night, too, moonlight or cloudy. It is a sensation quite unlike any I have ever known, to advance along a narrow, clay road in a rainy, dark night, striving in vain to see ahead and trusting solely in your horse's instinct to keep you out of a shell hole or the like. And to hear a buzz and a roar, and be passed by a towering, massive, formidable shape, which proves to be a truck. No lights are used, of course, and the only means of signaling are whistles. To go along such a road makes one think that something, more than bull luck, guided him safely.

" Of course, when one is within two miles of the front, the flames assist materially. They are fired up in the form of a rocket, and light the sky for miles around. To the objects around about they give much the same hue and appearance as the lights seen in the postal card studios which dot every city main street. But they make a light — grateful to some who are far enough away, and death to others."

Douglass rejoined his artillery outfit on September 11, 1918 — just before it was involved in the St. Mihiel offensive against a German salient near Limey the next day. Though hit by a shell splinter, Lieutenant Douglass continued his work of removing wounded men and dead and wounded horses and taking the gun carriages to a safer place. While doing so, he was struck and instantly killed by a bursting shell.

Douglass was cited for valor and recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross. He is buried in the St. Mihiel cemetery at Thiancourt.

His widow married Kenneth Stevenson on Saturday, August 6, 1921 at her parents' summer home in North Scituate. There were no attendants for either the bride or groom, as the ceremony was a private one. The bridegroom was a graduate of Penn State and had served in France as a Captain of Artillery. The newlyweds live in Pittsburg.

A memorial street sign for Allan W. Douglass will be unveiled on Wednesday October 3 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Beaumont and Chapman Streets.

Sergeant Josiah Fuller

Canton's first known World War I fatality was Josiah Fuller, a soldier who died on April 16, 1918 from pneumonia at the base hospital at Camp Sherman in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Fuller was the son of Helena and George Porter Fuller and had a younger brother, Nathaniel.

Born in Boston on April 18, 1889, he came at the age of six with his family to settle in Canton where he attended the local schools and lived on High Street. He was a bright lad, popular among his many friends.

Sergeant Josiah Fuller

At the age of 16, Fuller went to work for the New England Cotton Yarn Company. From there, in 1912, he went to California to seek employment. He remained in California for three years before returning to Canton to work for a local firm, Asbestos Protected Metals, where he was employed as a chemist. When the company relocated to Ambridge, Pennsylvania, Fuller relocated as well — until he was called up in the second quota of the first draft of 1917. Before going to camp, Fuller returned to Canton to spend a few days with his mother and brother (his father was deceased) and to renew old acquaintances and say good-bye to his friends.

In the army he was enrolled as a member of the Supply Company of the 323rd Field Artillery. Quickly moving up the ranks, Fuller was promoted from Private to Corporal to Sergeant to regimental Supply Sergeant — in a few months. In February 1918, his commanding officer, Lieutenant Clyde Hale, wrote to Fuller's mother: "I would like at this time to tell you how much Sergeant Fuller's services are appreciated. His position of Regimental Supply Sergeant is most important and one that can only be filled by men of special qualifications. Not only is he doing his work well, but his general disposition serves to prevent friction, a very valuable asset."

In the spring of 1918 Fuller was hit by a viral infection. In those days the malady was known as "La Grippe." Today, it would be diagnosed as a type of flu. Camp life has always hastened the spread of infectious diseases; later in 1918, the dreaded flu epidemic would kill millions — including civilians and service personnel from Canton. Flu shots, antibiotics and even sulfa drugs were remedies unknown to the medical men of the time.

Though stricken, Fuller showed improvement and returned to duty. But it was too soon. His condition developed into pneumonia and his case was soon considered terminal. His chaplain noted that Fuller was prepared for death and knew that his life's work was over. He succumbed two days before his 30th birthday.

Fuller's body was sent to Canton for a burial that occurred on Sunday afternoon April 21, a day of pouring rain. Despite the inclement weather, over a thousand persons turned out to pay their respects at the Baptist Church on Church Street and to accompany the body to Canton Corner Cemetery. The church's pews were full and scores stood in the aisles. Hundreds lined Washington Street.

In an unusual gesture of affection, the chaplain of the 323rd Field Artillery had accompanied Fuller's body back to Canton and eulogized him at the service.

The newly formed Company B of the Massachusetts State Guard, under Officer Abner Morse, organized the funeral arrangements.

The floral displays were impressive and profuse, as all Canton felt that the war had now taken one of its own sons. The pall bearers were prominent local men and friends of the family: H. Ware Barnum, Albert P. Morse, John H. Draper, Arthur L. Tirrell, Selectman Thomas D. Mullen, and H. Ernest Beal.

Fuller's brother, Nathaniel, would become a much-loved Canton dentist, hunter, sportsman, and conservationist.

The name of Josiah Fuller lived on in his namesake, Nethaniel's son, who one day would become a surgeon living in Ohio.

A memorial sign for Josiah Fuller will be dedicated at 2:00 p.m. on October 10 at the corner of High and Washington streets.

Private Pietro Gallo

Pietro Gallo came to Canton in 1907 from the town of Mirabello, which is in the province of Avelllino, near Naples in Italy.

Gallo was probably about 20 years of age at the time and had been preceded here by his sister, Palmira Gallo Pesaturo. Other sisters would follow, so that Gallo, though unmarried himself, would leave numerous descendants in the area.

Gallo came from a large family of 21 children. His father was a veterinarian who — despite his overflowing family — was noted for his hospitality and his welcoming table. Gallo lived in Canton for about eight years, but following the outbreak of World War I, he went to the Italian Consul in Boston to express his desire to enlist in the Italian Army and to fight for the Allied powers. Accordingly, Gallo sailed for Naples and enlisted in the army in February 1919. He served three years at the front.

Private Pietro Gallo

Gallo's theater of action was the treacherous Italian Alps, where he fought first against Austrian — later against crack German troops. The weather conditions were

(Continued on page 6)

abysmal; the casualties on both sides were high; and many man of valor spilled their life's blood on the slippery slopes. Ernest Hemingway captured some of its drama in "A Farewell to Arms," his novel based on his time with the Italian Army.

Gallo endured three years of hardship in the mountainous clashes on the Trentino border. In October 1918, he was given a ten-day furlough to spend with his mother in his native Mirabello. While there, Gallo contacted the deadly Spanish flu of that year, which killed millions worldwide. Like fellow Cantonians Albert Gavigan, Helen Homans, Leo Gray, George Horton, and Arthur Thomas, Gallo died of a viral infection in the terrible autumn of 1918. He passed on October 20, 1918, three weeks before the end of the war. He was buried with military honors in the Catholic cemetery there.

Gallo never returned to Canton, but thanks to his sisters, he has many collateral family members here. Among them are his nieces Sarah Estabrook, Mary Gregory and Theresa Farrell. He has grandnephews who wore the uniform in public service or in the military such as Lieutenant Edward Lehan (Ret) of the Canton Police Department, Allan Lehan (Ret) of the Canton Fire Department, Officer Robert Estabrook of the Canton Police Department and Navy veteran Robert Pesaturo. Other descendants include the Ambroceo and Macaluso families.

Gallo died too young, but he set a standard of public service and devotion that others in his clan have emulated with distinction.

My thanks to Ed Lehan, Sarah Estabrook, and Bob Pesaturo in preparing this account.

A memorial sign to Pietro Gallo will be dedicated on Wednesday October 17th at 2:00p.m. at the corner of Plymouth and Neponset Streets.

Cpl. Albert Healy Gavigan

Cpl. Albert Healy Gavigan

The news of "Allie" Gavigan's death dismayed many in Canton, for he was one of the most likable and popular young men in town. My own dad, who was both a neighbor and a friend of Gavigan, described him as "a prince of a man."

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Albert Healy Gavigan was born here on June 11, 1895, the son of Thomas and Joanna (Healy) Gavigan. He lived at 98 Mechanic Street and graduated from the ninth-grade program at St. John's School.

A faithful church-goer, he was a member of the Holy Name Society and active in the Canton Catholic Club.

Gavigan was of medium height and build, light complexioned, blue-eyed and with a sunny disposition that attracted many friends.

After graduation, Gavigan was employed at the Plymouth Rubber Company for six years — until he was called up by the Army on May 31, 1918, along with fellow citizens, Angelo Johnson, Ed Lukaszewicz and Frank Kehoe. He was sent first to Fort Slocum, New York and then to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, where he was assigned to a Field Artillery unit. Eventually, Gavigan wound up in Transportation Company "D," 2nd Corps, Artillery Park at Camp Stuart in Virginia.

Gavigan volunteered for overseas duty and sailed for France on July 9, 1918 with Truck Company "D." By then, he was a corporal and called a "Wagoner," which meant a truck driver — in this case, one transporting rations and ammunition to the front. He did exactly that during the fierce American offensive called the St. Mihiel drive. Shortly after the offensive ended, he fell ill with a viral infection, probably the baneful flu of 1918, and died of pneumonia on September 25.

The unexpected news of his death was devastating to his family and friends, and one of his Kenefick cousins, either Marie or Adele, wrote to his commanding officer, requesting information on his death. A letter dated January 2, 1919 came back in reply from Lieutenant Herbert Orchardt. It read as follows:

"Your cousin had been taken to a hospital near Toul, where he had the best of care. Have no doubts as to the treatment of Americans under medical attention. I wish you could have seen how loyally and unselfishly the doctors and nurses worked, how they remained on duty for hours after their allotted period, day and night, eager to do the utmost for the men in their charge.

"They say he was in no pain during most of his illness and was unconscious at the end.

"You will be proud to know of the pluck your boy showed. The first sign anyone had of his being "a bit under" as he put it, was the morning when he actually couldn't get up. He was then so seriously ill that he had to be taken at once to the hospital.

"For days before that, he must have felt "under," but he stuck it out for he knew that our army would have to be making a drive, and he wanted, of course, to be in on it.

"So the early morning of the 13th of September when the St. Mihiel advance began, he was at his post carrying ammunition forward to the foremost batteries. By 3:00 a.m. it was still drizzling, as it had been all night, and artillery of all caliber shook the earth. Our men returned after more than forty-eight hours, utterly exhausted and hungry but very happy. Not until the battle was definitely won, did he report his illness.

"It was the spirit of men such as he that made it possible to end the war so soon. We all recognized this in him as much as we did his skill and faithfulness.

"I have great sympathy with all his family in losing him for a while. I feel especially for his mother."

Gavigan was buried in France and never came home to Canton. In addition to his parents, he was survived by a brother, Joseph, who later named one of his own children for him. Gavigan was only 23 at the time of his untimely death.

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A memorial sign for Allie Gavigan will be dedicated at the corner of Mechanic and Washington Streets on Wednesday October 24 at 2 p.m.

George St. George

George St. George is the last of those considered to be the Town of Canton's war dead of the first World War. His case was unusual and sad.

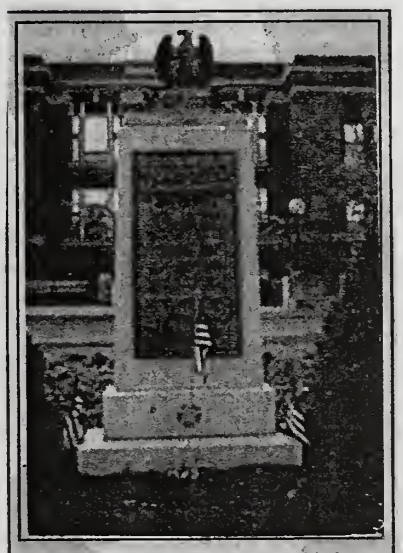
St. George was born August 23, 1896 in Newburyport; he was the son of Daniel and Mary (Lefebre) St. George, who came to Massachusetts from Canada. Little is known of his education, occupation and specific place of residence in town.

After being drafted for military service, St. George left for Camp Devens — along with Charles Dykeman — on August 27, 1918. At Devens, however, St. George was examined by the induction doctors, who found that his physical condition disqualified him for service.

St. George returned to his home within a few days, bearing an illness that resulted in his death on February 24, 1919. His death certificate indicates that he died of acute nephritis and chronic pleurisy. Despite his brief stay in camp, St. George was still considered to be a veteran; his name is the last one on the town's World War One memorial — located in front of the Hemenway. St. George was buried from St. John's — with Robert Tinkham, Donald Robit, Fred Savery, Emil Duby, and Eugene Clerkin acting as pallbearers.

Private Rupert Knowles

On the same day that St. George died, so also did Private Rupert Knowles. In the Gold Star Record published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Knowles' death is credited as one of Canton's serving World War I veterans. For some reason, however, he was never placed on the local memorial, and there is not even any mention of his death in the Town Report for 1919.Knowles was born in August 1880 at Ashton-under-Lynne England. He lived on Bolivar Street. He enlisted in the 68th Coast Artillery Corps and served a year in the United States Army — seven months of which were on the firing line on the French and Belgian fronts. Knowles came back to America on February 15, 1919 and took sick and died on February 24 at Camp Mills, New York. He was buried from the home of his sister, Mrs. Harry Whitehead, of 43 Sherman Street. He was also survived by two children, Dorothy. 13, and John, 11.Knowles was given a military funeral, with arrangements handled by Captain Benjamin E. Morse and a detail of 'D' Company, 13th Massachusetts Infantry of the State Guard. The firing squad at Canton Corner Cemetery was under the command of Percy Draper.



Canton's WW I memorial.

Shortly after Knowles' death, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead petitioned the court for custody of his two children. After more than 80 years, it is difficult to know what criteria were used in determining who deserved to have their names etched in stone on a perpetual memorial. Knowles was pretty much our 'unknown soldier' — until Jim Roache, President of the Historical Society, discovered his record when he wrote the military section of our bicentennial history.

**** A memorial sign will be dedicated to George St. George on Wednesday December 12 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Lewis and Washington Streets.*

Corporal Leo V. Gray

Cpl. Leo V. Gray

Today's concern about biological attacks by terrorists is eerily reminiscent of that caused by the biological warfare waged by Mother Nature and natural forces in 1918.

The flu epidemic was deadly, worldwide, quick acting — and was combated without the aid of the antibiotics we now know so well. Strangely enough, the World War I plague hit younger people and children worse than it did the elderly — with many of the victims from the armed forces.

As mentioned in earlier stories in this series, several of Canton's service personnel in World War I were killed by the flu. One of the soldiers to die was Leo V. Gray, who lived at 61 Leonard Street.

Gray was born here on September 27, 1891, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Gray. He was a bright young man with many friends and judged to be a "comer," — someone who would achieve in life and do well for himself.

At a time when many of his contemporaries had a limited education, Gray aspired for more training. After graduating from the ninth grade program at St. John's School, he went on to Canton High School for further study and graduated with honors. Next, he took a course at the Maltby Shorthand School and received a certificate of proficiency.

In those days, male stenographers were in much demand — particularly for legal work and in government offices. Gray accepted a position with a Boston firm and then got a job with the United States Agricultural Department in Washington, D.C. where he spent several years before being transferred to the Navy Yard at Portland, Maine. He subsequently left government service to take an attractive offer from the Texas Oil Company. He was working there when called up in the draft in July 1918.

Gray had two older brothers, Edward and Henry, who were already in the Army, and a sister, Mary, who was in another kind of service as a nun of the Presentation Order in New York.

On July 22, Canton was a gathering point for 83 inductees from the towns of Canton, Sharon, Foxboro, Wrentham, Milton, and Stoughton. In addition to Gray, the Canton boys were James Lechas, Willis Croft, Ira Stoddard, Patrick Quinn and Francis Ryan.

The Canton contingent assembled at the Town Hall where they were given directions by the Chairman of the Draft Board, Dr. William O. Faxon, and received gifts of pipes and tobacco from Gilbert Tolman. They were escorted from Memorial Hall to the Depot in Canton Center by the Canton Catholic Club Fife and Drum Corps, the Girl Scouts, the Board of Selectmen, a delegation of Civil War veterans from Revere Post #44 of the G.A.R. and a long line of schoolchildren. At the railroad station, hundreds said goodbye to the men from Canton and surrounding towns.

Gray arrived at Camp Devens and was assigned to the 5th Company, 2nd Battalion, 151 at Depot Brigade. His clerical skills, talent and work experience marked him for early promotion. Within three weeks, he was made a corporal in the clerical department and was in line to be named a sergeant.

Gray was home on leave in September when he came down with the flu and was taken to the Canton Hospital on High Street. It was clear at once that he had a deadly viral infection, and he died on September 21, 1918, six days short of his twenty-seventh birthday. That week in Canton, 15 people lost their lives.

Gray's funeral Mass was at St. John's and his pall bearers were James Curran, Michael Kelliher, John Healy, Joseph Fox, and Walter Gray. A local writer at the time noted that Gray "was mourned as a highly respected and popular citizen."

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There will be a memorial sign dedicated to Corporal Leo Gray at the corner of Sherman and Washington Street on Wednesday, October 31 at 2 p.m.

Nurse Helen Homans

Helen Homans

Helen Homans is the only Canton woman whose name is inscribed on a plaque honoring those who died in the service of their country in the First World War.

Homans was a Red Cross nurse who volunteered her skills to the Allied effort — long before the United States entered the conflict in April 1917.

She began her nurse's training in May, 1915 at Hopital de l'Alliance for French soldiers in Normandy, where she remained until September, and where she was again stationed from February to December, 1916. Homans was transferred in January, 1917 to Hopital Auxiliare 109 in Eure, which was operated by the French Red Cross.

In September 1917 she went to Ambulancies Automobile Chirurgiens #21, 22 in Aisne, which was near the front. Homans remained there until February 1918, when she came home to Canton on leave. After returning to France, she rejoined her nursing group on duty with Hopital Complementaire de l'Armee 65, at Pontoise — about 20 miles north of Paris.

Homans was born January 24, 1884 into a family with a history of public service. Her father, John, was a surgeon with the Union forces in the Civil War and was on the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital. She grew up in family homes on Boston's Beacon Hill, in Milton and on Green Street in Canton. On her deathbed in France, in her delirium, she asked to go home to Ponkapoag. She and two other young ladies, Katherine McLennan and Edith Parkman, were together in France with the mission of aiding the sick and wounded in the French army.

The work done by the American nurses was demanding and exhausting and literally was life threatening. In 1917, Homans developed a bronchitis condition that persisted the rest of her life. After her return to Canton in early 1918, she could easily have taken the position that she had done enough, but her sense of duty and devotion brought her back to France to her hospital at Pontoise.

There, in October 1918, Homans contracted the influenza virus, which — on top of her bronchial weakness — was a deadly combination. Parkman wrote several letters both to her own mother and to Homans', in which she described her condition. At first there was a note of hope for recovery, and at one point Homans seemed to be getting better. The hope was short-lived, however, as her condition worsened and she became wildly delirious.

A small miracle occurred on the Thursday before her death. Edith Parkman wrote: "That afternoon she was decorated with the croix de guerre with palm, a most touching and wonderful sight. All the day she had been delirious and hadn't known anybody or been conscious of what was going on. Suddenly, however, as the medecin-chef was pinning on the cross, in the presence of doctors, nurses, and orderlies who cared for her, her face suddenly lighted up with the most beautiful smile and she thanked the medecin-chef in the cunningest way and spoke to each of the people there in turn." Sadly, her respite was brief as she plunged into straight pneumonia.

Homans was seen by her brothers, William and Robert, before she died on November 5, 1918. Parkman put it aptly: "She died a most glorious death; she literally killed herself in the service of her blesses. Everybody recognizes her denouement as being something perfectly remarkable, everybody that had anything to do with her, nurses, doctors, and patients appreciated it, and she has certainly left the most beautiful memory that is possible for a human being, behind her,"

Homans' funeral services were on November 7 and were conducted by Reverend Doctor Billings from the Groton School. The head of the French Red Cross and other dignitaries were among the mourners in attendance. Her remains were sent home, and she is interred in the Milton Cemetery. There is also a plaque in her memory in King's Chapel.

Parkman, her nursing associate and friend, returned to Radcliffe for her degree and subsequently married William Homans.

I thank James Homans, Helen's nephew, for his help and James Roache, the president of the Historical Society, for furnishing copies of the Parkman correspondence.

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A memorial street sign will be dedicated to Helen Homans at the corner of Washington and Green Lodge Streets on Wednesday November 7 at 2 p.m.

Pvt. George Howard Horton

Private George Howard Horton

George Horton was one of the older casualties among the Canton men who served in the First World War. He was 32 when he entered the Army on September 6, 1918. He apparently had some physical infirmities, which might have given him a deferred classification under the standards used in World War II. However, during the First War — as time went on — men with physical problems were drafted for "limited service."

Most men drafted from Canton were first sent to Camp Devens in Ayer or to Camp Jackson in South Carolina. In Horton's case, he and two other similarly classified Canton fellows, Nochem Semer and Charles St. George, were transported directly to the 25th Battalion Recruiting Company in Syracuse, New York.

Unfortunately Horton's stay there would be all too brief.

Born in Toledo, Ohio to Isaac Chester and Hattie (Barbour) Horton on February 23, 1886, Horton came to Canton with his family when he was 7, at which time his father purchased a large home on the northern side of the intersection of Washington and Green Lodge streets. Horton and his sister, Mildred, attended local schools, and after graduation George found employment in Boston as a shipper for Crimmins and Pierce.

The 1919 Town Report described Horton as one "beloved by all who knew him. The pleasant laugh, the tender heart, the helpful soul endeared him to the folks of his town."

Horton was in the Army less than a month at Camp U. S. Troops in Syracuse when he caught the lethal influenza virus. He died in camp on October 3, 1918, and his body was brought back here scarcely four weeks after he had entrained from Canton.

In the week of his demise, 27 deaths were recorded in this town from the twentieth century version of the plague.

His funeral services were conducted at Canton Corner Cemetery and were attended by a large gathering. The bearers and military escort were from Company "D,' 13th Massachusetts Infantry of the State Guard, and were under the command of Captain Benjamin E. Morse. Bearers included Sergeants Kane, Draper, Revere, Daniels and Private Anderson. The firing squad consisted of Privates Curran, Horgan, Sadler, Morse, Beals, Hewitt, Prescott, Mullen and Moseley.

Horton's surviving sister, Mildred, would eventually marry Bill Whitty, a returning Canton army veteran who had a valorous front-line career. Whitty later became the town's police chief. Mildred Horton Whitty is remembered as a loving wife who supported and aided her husband in his later years of illness.

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A memorial sign to George Horton will be dedicated Wednesday November 14 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Sassamon and Turnpike streets.

Cpl. William P. Monahan

Cpl. William P. Monahan

Billy Monahan and Ed Beatty had a lot in common: They were Canton boys from the same parish, childhood friends and men who had voluntarily enlisted in the 101st Infantry regiment of the 26th Division.

The pair had gone overseas on the same ship, saw each other frequently in France and shared gift packages from their hometown. Monahan was with Beatty on Easter Sunday night 1918 and was involved in repulsing the same German attack at Seicheprey in which Beatty was killed. Indeed Monahan received a citation from Major General Clarence "Pappy" Edwards for his valor on that occasion.

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Because of his cheerful demeanor, happy countenance and exuberance for life, Billy Monahan was nicknamed "Hap." He was born March 11, 1893 to Irish immigrant parents Matthew and Martha (McGhan) Monahan. He attended St. John's School and graduated from its ninth grade program.

Monahan learned how to be a telegrapher and got a job doing such work for the railroad. He was stationed in Uxbridge as a ticket clerk and telegraph operator and living there when he enlisted in the Massachusetts National Guard in July 1917. He was placed in the 1st Battalion, Signal Corps and then transferred to Company B, 101st Field Signal Battalion of the 26th Yankee Division. When the Division was federalized, Monahan went overseas on September 23, 1917. Shortly thereafter — on October 13 — he was promoted to corporal.

The Yankee Division was among the first American troops to experience combat. At Seicheprey, they were hit by a massive German offensive, which was preceded by heavy artillery bombardment. Monahan made it through, but his friend, Ed Beatty, did not.

Monahan wrote soon after to Father Maguire: *"Just a line to let you know that I am feeling fine, but cannot say that I am happy after what happened to Eddie Beatty. I was talking to him Easter Sunday night. We were both on our way to the front, and as I had just received a package from the War Relief in Canton, containing some stockings, I divided with him.*

"I was at the same front with Eddie, and believe me, it was something I will never forget. I was present when he was laid to rest, and have visited the place many times, as I have to pass it during the day.

"I am living in a dugout, and there are four other fellows from my company with me. We have to do our own cooking. I have to wear my steel helmet and gas mask all the time, for we never know when we are going to get a shower bath of shrapnel and then some gas for dessert.

"While I am writing this letter the noise outside sounds like a Fourth of July celebration in the States, only much louder.

"I wish I could tell you all about Eddie, but you must wait till I return on account of the letter having to be censored."

Monahan is himself mentioned often by other Canton servicemen who wrote home from France. In a letter he wrote to Con Healy — written from a hospital in which he was recovering from a wound — Tom Danahy noted that he had been visited by Monahan *"who is well and has been promoted to Sergeant."*

But on October 11, Matthew Monahan was informed by the War Department that his son had been seriously wounded; six days later the word came through to Canton that he had succumbed to his injuries. More information was contained in a letter to his father from Lieutenant John B. Cummins of the 26th division Headquarters:

"Your son died of wounds — received gloriously in action — in a hospital on September 13th.

"He was attached to the Observation Post of the Division of which I am in charge. We went 'over the top' at 8:00 a.m. September 12 in the advance, which wiped out the St. Mihiel Salient.

"Our duty was to observe movements of the enemy and report them by telephone to Division Headquarters and Major General Edwards. Our position was in the front and several times even farther forward. Your son, William, was wounded in the back by a machine gun bullet while advancing bravely in the face of terrific Boche fire. He was given 'first aid' by my sergeant, Sergeant Carty, and was carried to the rear by stretcher-bearers. We did not think he was seriously wounded at that time, and so it was with surprise and sorrow that I learned of his death on the 18th.

"Although I had only known your son for two days, I had seen at the very first those fine soldierly qualities, which makes us so proud of our men.

"Having lost a brother over here, I know what your trials have been."

Monahan's Company Commander wrote in a similar vein and noted that Monahan was wounded shortly after going over the top into No Man's Land with a telephone line. *"Willliam Monahan was one of my best non-commissioned officers, thoroughly reliable and whose courage and personal bravery were unquestionable. He has never failed to accomplish his mission, and I take this opportunity to make it of official record. We will see that his resting place is properly taken care of."*

Monahan's mother had died in 1914, and he was survived by his father, his sister, Anna, and brother, Joseph. Anna married Fred Buckley and one of their three sons was named for Billy. The record of military service continued in his nephews; Billy, Joseph and Fred Buckley were all in the armed forces in World War II, with Fred earning the Silver Star. Billy and Joe served with distinction on the Canton Police force, with Joe serving as chief of the Department. Billy Monahan's grandniece, Ann Woodman, is the children's librarian at the Canton Public Library.

Billy Monahan is buried in France.

A memorial sign for William Monahan will be dedicated Wednesday November 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the corner of Church and Washington Streets.

Private John G. Shaw

John G. Shaw was among the many Englishmen who immigrated to Canton in the early 1900's to work in the town's woolen mills.

Many of them came from Leeds, and their families became part of the texture of Canton history. They bore names like Mosley, Alsop, Hinchcliffe, Graham, Wright, Falls, Paslow, Seifert, Gee, Sykes, Phillips, Crossley, Richardson and Clark. So numerous were they that there was an active Canton Cricket Club and also a Canton soccer/football team; they each were in a league, and their matches were well attended.

Though he came to Canton by way of Canada, "Jack" Shaw was part of this group.

Born in Leeds in April 1889, Shaw's Canton residence was 614 Chapman Street, where he lived with his aunt, Mrs. T. Wright. Employed at the Neponset Woolen Mill, Shaw eventually advanced to the position of assistant dyer for the company. His parents and siblings remained in England, and he had a brother who became a British "Tommie" serving in the Army.

Shaw was a good mixer and soon had many friends in town. He was elected treasurer of the Canton soccer/football team and was also a member of the Cricket Club. He often attended the Evangelical Congregational Church and was a participant in the activities of the Brewster Club — a young men's organization in the church under the direction of Ben Morse.

Private John G. Shaw

When World War One began, Shaw felt a patriotic urge to go back to England and serve his mother country. In May 1915 he was impelled to take action. Early that same month his friends and fellow Leeds natives (also living in Canton), the Joseph Thompson family, decided to return to England. They felt that in doing so, Mrs. Thompson's health would improve. They sailed from New York on the Lusitania, which was sunk by a German U Boat. The sinking of the Lusitania, with the loss of many American lives, was to be a major reason for the entry of the United States into the war two years later. Thompson himself was saved, but his wife and child perished. Could this tragedy have influenced Jack Shaw to enlist to fight in the war? We do not know.

In any event, Shaw concluded that he had to do his part in the war and that the quickest course would be to leave Canton and go to Toronto to join a Canadian regiment slated for shipment to France. He left here on May 28, 1915.

Two days prior to his departure, Shaws' friends and members of the Brewster Club threw him a farewell party. The program for the evening reflected the simple and innocent mores of the period. There was a piano solo by Mr. W. Scott, a song by Mr. J. Browne, a concertina solo by G. Hinchcliffe, a song by Charlie Sykes, a "rendition" by Freddy Mosley, a song by Lester Hinchcliffe and a trombone solo by Joe Mosley.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation to Jack Shaw by J. Wright of a gentleman's travelling and shaving outfit. Wright remarked that he hoped Jack "would live through his troubles and enjoy the use of them." Shaw replied that he expected to use them for many years to come.

Such an outcome was not to be. Private John G. Shaw, "D" Company, 41st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, was killed in action on June 10, 1916. He was the first Canton casualty of the war.

There will be a memorial sign dedicated to John Shaw at a later date at the corner of Chapman and Neponset streets.

Sergeant Arthur W. Thomas

Arthur Wendell Thomas was born in Canton on March 2, 1896. He was the son of Thomas and Mary (Upham) Thomas. The Thomases lived on Prospect Street with their six children, three boys and three girls.

Arthur Thomas graduated from the Crane School and was employed as a shipper at the C. B. Rathbun Leather Works at Canton Junction.

In 1914 he enrolled in company 'H' of the historic Ninth Massachusetts Regiment of the National Guard. The Ninth became the 101st Infantry regiment of the newly formed 26th Yankee Division. Thomas went with the troops in 1916 and spent four months on the Mexican border as General John J. Pershing chased Pancho Villa.

When his enlistment was up in 1917, Thomas re-enlisted in Framingham on March 25 and was mustered to duty on April 3 — days before the United States entered the First World War. He was transferred on September 3 to the Supply Company, 101st Infantry and went overseas on Labor Day 1917. On March 24, 1918, he was given the title and responsibilities of mess sergeant.

Canton was a close-knit town in those days, and the Canton boys serving in France tried to keep in touch with one another and with their old hometown. In a letter dated December 29, 1917 to Father Dennis Maguire, Thomas wrote to thank him for a Christmas package. "I wish you would also thank the boys of the Canton Catholic Club for what they did for a soldier that came from Canton," Thomas wrote, "and who is doing his bit somewhere in France after having left his dear friends behind." He signed it: "A Soldier Boy from Canton."

Thomas' feelings about home are apparent in a letter he wrote to a friend in July 1918: "I just received your welcome letter today and was more than glad to hear from you, and also that Canton people thought of us boys over here to write to us and cheer us. I can see that Canton citizens think a great deal of her boys so many miles away, and I hope to see all of them very soon.

Sgt. Arthur W. Thomas

"I thank you all for wanting to know if you can help me by sending something. I will get an order from the Second Lieutenant, as I would like some smokes very much.

"I see a great many of the Canton boys, and we have a great time talking about our town. We are proud of it and hope to reach it safely to see all our dear ones again."

Thomas was a participant in all the campaigns of the heavily engaged Yankee Division and was happy to see the Armistice as a tested veteran who had come through the conflict uninjured. Shortly after the cessation of hostilities, however, he was on furlough and caught the vicious influenza virus. Thomas died on December 22, 1918 in LeBabaul and was initially buried there. His family did not receive notification of his demise until January 10, 1919 — the same day his sister, Mrs. Ruth Davis, wife of Eugene Davis of Prospect Street, also died of pneumonia.

Thomas was survived by his parents and three brothers — George E., also serving with the 101st Infantry in France, Ralph and Charles — and three sisters —Mrs. Frances Weeks, Miss Maude Thomas and Ruth Davis.

On Monday evening June 8, 1921 Thomas' body arrived back in Canton to receive the homage of the town and an impressive military funeral. His body lay in state in the Grand Army of the Republic Room at Memorial Hall, where the citizens paid their respects.

On Saturday morning, June 11, the officers and men of the Beatty Post under Commander George P. Capen escorted the flag-draped casket on a caisson drawn by six gray horses in a procession to St. John's Church, where Pastor Father Mark Madden said a Requiem High Mass.

Sergeant-Major John Skehan — accompanied by Corporal William Simons, Wagoner Charles K. Endicott, and Wagoner John Ellery — was in charge of the caisson.

After the Mass, the line of march was reformed, and — to the beat of muffled drums — the mourners marched to Canton Corner Cemetery.

The pallbearers were Clement B. Cosgrove, James A. Dockray, Daniel Flood, Thomas Danahy, Herbert Cushman, and Walter Titus. Sergeant James Doody was the color-bearer and led Commander Capen, Vice-Commander Alvin Quennell, and Chaplain Dr. Dean S. Luce.

The firing squad consisted of Sergeant Michael McSweeney, John Cunningham, John Brown, William Curtis, Sergeant J. J. Hennessey, Henry Gray, Corporal George I. Dana, William Goss, and Sergeant Thomas Whitty. Taps were played by Wilder Kelle, James Calhoun, and Norman Wells.

Thomas' nephew and namesake, the son of his brother, George, would give his life for his country in World War II. Among Arthur Thomas' descendants are Selectman George Jenkins of Walnut St., William Jenkins of Eagle Drive, George Thomas III of Fuller St., Cheryl Thomas of Mountain Ave. and Eleanor Connolly of Trayer Rd. — his grand nephews and nieces.

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There will be a memorial street sign dedicated to Arthur Thomas on Wednesday December 5 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Pleasant and Washington Streets.

What was D-Day, June 6, 1944?

It began with the massing of the greatest sea invasion force in history consisting of a naval armada carrying troops, supplies and awesome fighting war ships. In the air, thousands of planes roared over the Channel to bomb enemy positions and installations.

Its code name was Operation Overlord. The landing sites were called Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold and Sword. 175,000 American, British and Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy on that morning of June 6, 1944.

You do not need a historical reminder to know it was either Omaha or Utah where you landed and faced the challenges of punching through the Atlantic Wall defended by some of the war's greatest German tactical generals and military units. Possibly you were a foot soldier in the 1st, the 4th or the 29th Army Divisions or you were a sailor ferrying the invasion barges to shore or an airman on a bomber or a glider bringing the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions to a night landing behind enemy lines on the Cotentin Peninsula. Forty-nine hundred of your American and Allied comrades did not survive the first day. Thousands of others were wounded. The ensuing Normandy campaign claimed the lives of many thousands of American soldiers.

D-Day also was a triumph of American production and logistics where 700 tons of supplies per day per division were successfully produced, transported and ultimately delivered to the front lines in France. Eventually 36 divisions on the continent had to be supplied daily with 25,000 tons of fuel, ammunition and provisions.

At the WW II Memorial dedication on Saturday, the principal speakers eloquently highlighted the human sacrifices of 16 million Americans who served in WWII; their accomplishments and the post-war America they created. In their speeches, they concluded that the greatest legacy of the Greatest Generation is for those who follow to carry on its traditions of hard work, sacrifice, humility, dedication, devotion to duty and love of country.

You, the veterans of D-Day and those of you from all the theaters of action in Europe and the Pacific are the embodiment of those noble traits. Here, in our little town, at this site established by so many Canton young men who went off to that war, we take this moment to salute you, those who have since passed on and those who never returned.

And what is the enduring lesson of D-Day of 60 years ago, that climactic battle of WWII called the most important day of the 20th century? One lesson is surely that war is barbarism, the ultimate failure of diplomacy. Today, if German or Japanese WWII veterans stood in this room with us (and ironically, some German prisoners of war worked a mere ½ mile from here at Springdale Finishing Co.), without question, they would be welcomed and embraced. There must be another way.

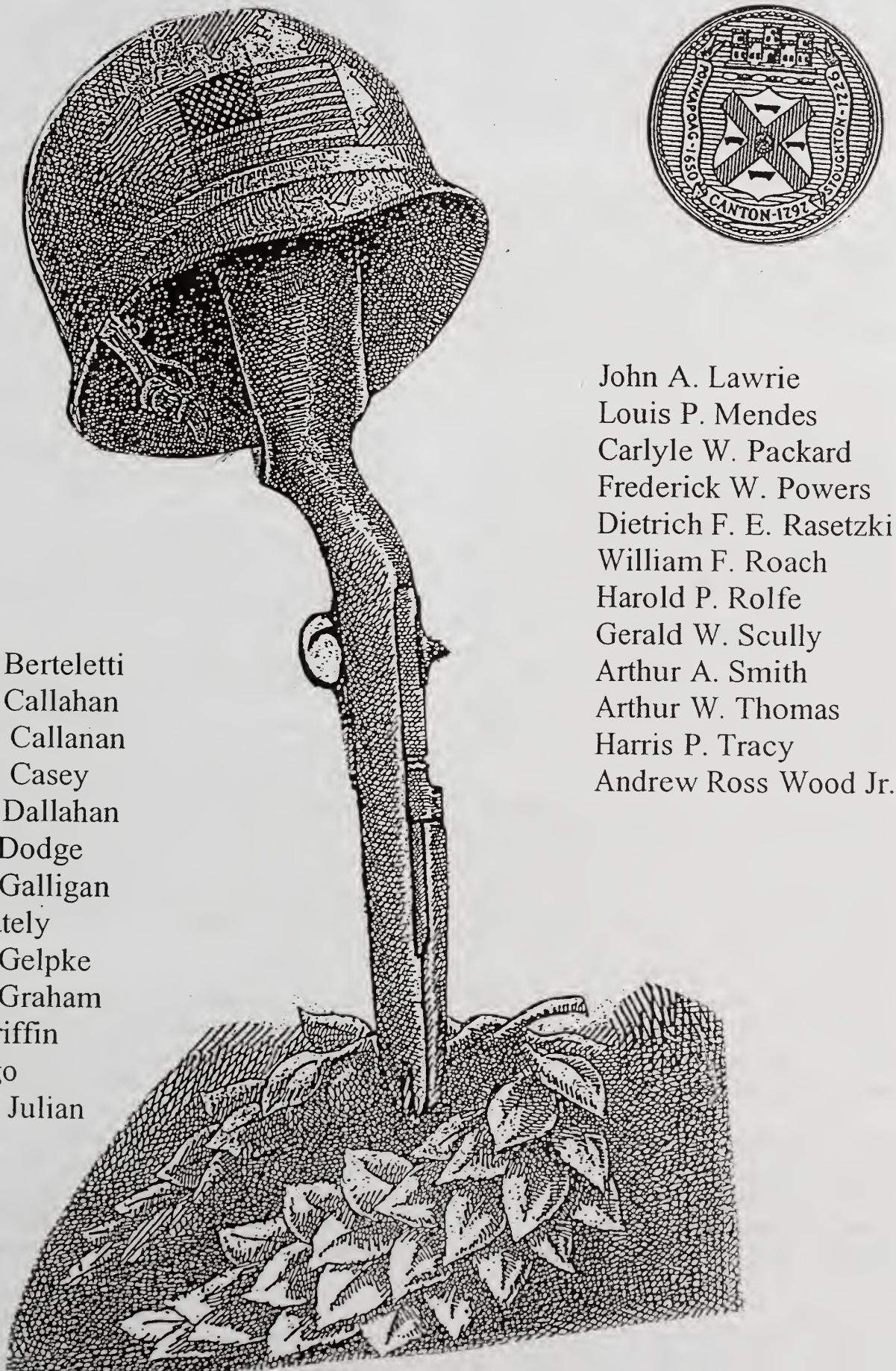
So, as fellow veterans extending respect, remembrance and honor to you for your ordeal of the Longest Day, let us resolve individually and collectively to find another way to prevent future D-Days

By

Edward R. Piana

JUNE 6, 2004

Canton in WWII



Walter G. Berteletti
Albert M. Callahan
Michael J. Callanan
William J. Casey
Robert G. Dallahan
Parker B. Dodge
Donald J. Galligan
John J. Gately
Robert E. Gelpke
Donald J. Graham
John F. Griffin
Dana F. Igo
Michael J. Julian

John A. Lawrie
Louis P. Mendes
Carlyle W. Packard
Frederick W. Powers
Dietrich F. E. Rasetzki
William F. Roach
Harold P. Rolfe
Gerald W. Scully
Arthur A. Smith
Arthur W. Thomas
Harris P. Tracy
Andrew Ross Wood Jr.

In October 1929 the American stock market crash brought devastation upon the whole world. In particular, it put further stress on the fragile post-war economies of Europe. Tensions and divisions, heightened in both Asia and Europe. At home, the country became mired in the Great Depression throughout the 1930's.

Canton did not escape the problems of the times. In 1935 the town recorded a population of 6505 and by 1940 it had declined to 6314. As a consequence of the low population as well as the difficult economic times, a graduating group of only 40 comprised the Canton High School class of 1935.

Employment opportunities in Canton and surrounding towns fell far short of the population's needs even in an era when many women did not remain in the labor force beyond marriage. CCC, WPA and other federal programs absorbed some of the idle labor force; however, even as the decade of the 1930's was drawing to a close, the nation continued to suffer from the ten year span of world wide economic decline. Europe went to war in September 1939 and Washington went on the alert.

By mid-year 1940, Congress had legislated the mechanism for a national military draft as well as other urgent measures. The Alien Registration Division of Immigration and Naturalization set up a mandatory system for registration of all aliens over the age of 14. The Canton Post Office served as the local federal office where on August 23, 1940 over 300 Canton residents with legal alien status reported for registration, fingerprinting and insurance of ID cards.

Upper Memorial Hall must have been a beehive of activity on October 16, 1940 when 737 Canton men between the ages of 21 and 36 registered for the very first peacetime draft. Joseph Podgurski of Washington Street held the distinction of registering first. Later, when the Draft Board assigned a serial number to each registrant, Edward A. Howard of Pleasant Street received number 1. The numbers ran from 1 to approximately 3,000 in the local district comprised of Canton, Dedham and Westwood. The highest number locally went to Dayton Vance Taylor of Chapman Street.

Thus the selective service system came into being. Through a national lottery, the serial numbers then were pulled for the initial draft call. Frederick Potter Harrison of Chapman Street became the first Canton pick. As it turned out, no one from Canton was drafted in that call up because the local district quota had been filled by enlistments. Lawrence P. Clews, George Anagnoston and Alec Philopolous gained the historical distinction of becoming the very first draftees from Canton when they were inducted into the U.S. Army on November 19, 1940 and January 10, 1941 respectively.

The next draft call came quickly. Donald Billings, Walter Landon, Joseph Riley, George Zachorne and John Bright received their summons from Uncle Sam. Walter Berteletti joined this group when he volunteered for the Army. The six young men left Canton for their induction on February 11, 1941. They appeared in a front page photograph sporting overcoats and soft hats which were typical of well dressed men for the period.

Thereafter, the numbers of Canton draftees and volunteers escalated into the hundreds when America entered the war as a result of the December 7,1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. For most young men in town an abrupt end came to their school, work, athletics and all civilian activities. Families anguished over their sons', brothers' and husbands' departures. The inductees marched, drove, shipped and flew to strange,

new lives in the various branches of the military commonly referred to as simply "the Service." All must have experienced the simultaneous feelings of apprehension and excitement combined with the resolve to "let's get it done and over with." For the first time women had the opportunity to enlist in their new branches of service. A number of Canton women became soldiers, sailors, airmen or marines in the war.

Canton's home front geared up as well. Victory bonds, the shipyard, afghan squares, scrap metal, Homecoming Fund, rationing, curfews, air raid wardens – suddenly stood out in the daily lexicon of the local civilian population. In their own sheltered way, Canton and communities everywhere, mustered their complete, undivided support behind the war effort and the men and women in uniform.

Sadly, by the beginning of 1943 the human tragedy of war had hit a number of families. From that point on, no longer did statistics involve other people in other places. The casualty lists now included Canton men killed on Guadalcanal, in the Phillippines and in flight training.

As the war accelerated, hundreds of Canton servicemen joined permanent units, ships and squadrons in both Europe and Asia. They along with G.I's from every corner of the USA participated in the many campaigns that defined WWII. On the seas and air they were involved in the battles of the North Atlantic, Midway and the Philippine Sea. On the ground and in the air they were part of American forces which began to counter attack in the Aleutians, N. Africa and Sicily. When General Mac Arthur and Admiral Nimitz launched their island hopping assaults, Canton's servicemen were there as they moved through the Admiralty, Caroline, Gilbert, Marshall and Marianas Islands. They were combatants in the expansive campaigns of Burma, New Guinea, the Philippines and in the final Pacific battles for Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

In Europe Canton's young men helped to launch the largest military landing force in history on June 6, 1944 - D-Day. Successively, the Allied invasion forces recaptured Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Austria and ultimately Germany.

Finally it was over; first in Europe and then in the Pacific. From Canton, twenty five young men lost their lives. Many others received serious and permanent battle wounds. Most of the fallen were returned for military funerals in Canton. World War II had spanned more than 2,000 days. It caused an estimated 50 million deaths. More than 16 million Americans served in the Armed Forces, 750,000 from Massachusetts and over 500 from Canton alone. Many survivors have carried their mental and physical wounds to this day. No other event and no other war in the 20th century can compare even remotely with its magnitude or the impact it had on the course of succeeding world affairs. Every American Soldier, Sailor, Marine and Airman who served in that epoch struggle shared an experience that forever sets them apart. During the passage of time many of their individual exploits have remained untold and unfortunately, even in a shroud of apathy.

For those who did not survive, all 25 of them from Canton and the thousands from communities everywhere, those whose extended hand never reached that elusive butterfly, what will be their lasting redemption? Probably it can best be found in the words written by Herbert Croly in 1909, "The Promise of American Life."

> "Americans believe that somehow and sometime something better will happen to <u>good</u> Americans than has happened to men in any other country; and this belief, vague, innocent and unfounded though it may be, is the expression of an essential constituent in our *national ideal."*

With those words, Croly captured a noble and very valid vision shared by most Americans at the time. Now, as the 20th century has drawn to a close, the memories of determination and resolve from World War II have faded along with the thinning ranks of its combatants. And yet, *<u>good</u>* Americans, inspite of today's cynicism, still hold to Croly's vision but with the added realization that it required the sacrifices of a generation of young Americans in World War II to preserve that *national ideal.*

Edward R. Piana

April 2000

Gerry Gallagher Arlene Love Bob Wood

New members of Funeral Honor Guard

Services and Parade Saturday Forenoon to Honor All War Dead

Partiotic Orders and Men Now in Service to Conduct Services Of Memorial Day

All men in active service in the armed forces of the United States and all veterans not members of any veterans' organizations are invited to take part in the parade and exercises on Memorial Day as honored guests of Edward J. Beatty Post, American Legion, and the Sons of Union Veterans, the patriotic organizations in charge of the Memorial Day observance.

The program for Memorial Day, May 30, is as follows:

The various patriotic groups of the town will meet at the Legion rooms at the corner of Washington and Bolivar streets at 8:45 a. m. The parade is to start at 9:00 a. m. sharp. The line of march will be led by Officer of the Day, Dr. Herbert A. Rice, Commander of Edward J. Beatty Post, American Legion, with his staff, which includes his own aides, members of the armed forces of the present war who may be in town on that day, members of the Spanish-American War, Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans, Howard Shaw; and veterans of any war who do not belong to any veterans' organization.

Following the staff will be the colors and firing squad. Then in order come Edward J. Beatty Post, American Legion Band, members of the Legion, Camp 16, Sons of Union Veterans, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Junior Legion, Civilian Defense Units and the Boy Scouts.

The first stop will be at the American Legion Monument at the high school. A prayer will be offered by the Chaplain of the Legion. A wreath will be placed on the monument, the firing squad will salute the dead and taps will be sounded.

The march will then continue to the new section of Saint Mary's Cemetery opposite the Massachusetts Hospital School where a memorial mass will be offered at 10:00 a. m. At the close of the mass the march will proceed to Saint Mary's Cemetery where the graves will be decorated. Then to the G. A. R. monument in the Canton Corner Cemetery where the Sons of Veterans will conduct the program.

Opening prayer will be given by Reverend Frederick A. Hayes, minister of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

Reading of General Logan's Orders by Edward Allen.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by a member of Canton High School.

Speaker of the Day will be James Mullin, Clerk of the Charlestown District Court.

Selection by the American Legion Band.

Benediction will be offered by Reverend Hayes.

Then the decorating of the graves will take place.

The march will then continue to the American Legion Monument where the new stone and plaque will be presented to the American Legion Auxiliary. It will be accepted by Commander Rice.

At the conclusion of the exercises the members of all organizations will return in formation to Memorial hall where a buffet lunch will be served.

Honor Roll is Being Erected at Memorial Hall

The standard for the Honor Roll, on which will be listed the names of all Canton men serving in any branch of the United States service in the present war, is now being erected on the lawn in front of Memorial hall. It will be in a prominent position so that the names will be clearly visible to passers-by either from the sidewalk or the street.

84 Town Club Boys in Service

Eighty-four boys from the Canton Town Club are serving in the United States Forces. Probably no other organization in town has so extensive an honor roll and the Club is proud to have it published.

Five boys from the Club were in the Tuesday induction and all of them passed the final physical examination. Of this group Everett Minichelli was picked for the Navy and Walter Nervi, Charles Bougas, Peter Berteletti and Aldo Borroni for the Army.

The Club's honor roll is as follows:

CANTON TOWN CLUB
HONOR ROLL

A. Pavadore, Army; A. Polmonari, Army; E. Patriaca, Navy Air Corps; F. Plant, Marines; J. Queenan, Navy; S. Swardlick, Army; W. Sweeney, Army; E. Sherr, Army; J. Sheehan, Army Air Corps; C. Tolias, Army.

N. Tolias, Army; B. Teague, Army; S. Tumas, Army; J. Vloghanis, Army; F. Romanelli, Army; T. Grover, Navy; E. Daly, Army; R. Terrio, Navy; D. Gardner, Army; J. Anderson, Navy.

B. Adams, Army; J. Bruno, Army; J. Broderick, Army; W. Bertiletti, Army; J. Brown, Marines; J. Crowley, Navy; A. Crowd, Army; E. Chase, Army; J. Cushman, Army; A. Decembrille, Army.

J. Danahy, Navy Air Corps; J. Fama, Army; E. Farrell, Navy; J. Graham, Army; L. Galligan, Marines; T. Gallagher, Navy; T. Griffin, Navy; R. Gibson, Navy; J. Howard, Navy Air Corps; J. Hagan, Navy.

K. Jenkins, Army; L. Kelly, Navy; W. Kelleher, Navy; P. Kelleher, Army; J. Lane, Army; S. Malcolmson, Army; E. MacDermott, Army; D. MacLeod, Army; J. Olsen, Navy; F. Reggiani, Army.

G. Roache, Army; V. Philbrick, Army; J. Connolly, Army; J. Reardon, Coast Guard; J. Julian, Marines; B. Julian, Navy; E. Powers, Marines; R. Jones, Navy; G. Anagnoston, Army; D. Digiralamo, Navy.

C. Lane, Marines; E. Callery, Army; F. Fama, Army; E. Jenkins, Army; T. Finn, Navy Air Corps; P. Rogers, Army; J. Dominic, Army; C. Barbaglia, Army; A. Pavidis, Army Air Corps; J. Polmonari, Army Air Corps.

E. Mazzone, Navy; B. Grant, Navy; R. Masciarelli, Navy; G. Thomas, Army; W. Callahan.

W. Nervi, C. Bougas, E. Minichelli, P. Berteletti, A. Borroni.

Honorary Members
Dr. Charles Callery, Army
Dr. Herbert F. Boles, Army
Dr. William J. Thompson, Army

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Street sign to honor memory of Walter Berteletti

- Fallen Hero program resumes with WW II vets -

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

Last fall, in a weekly Fallen Hero Sign Dedication Program, Canton honored its veterans who lost their lives during World War I by dedicating street signs in their memory in various locations throughout the town.

This month, the program continues, with signs scheduled to be

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Walter Berteletti

dedicated to the 25 veterans who died during World War II.

On Wednesday, March 27 at 2 p.m. a memorial ceremony will dedicate a sign at the corner of Jackson and Neponset streets to Walter Berteletti.

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Walter G. Berteletti entered the world on October 14, 1915 in the small mining community of Coalgate, Oklahoma. His parents had moved to Coalgate from Canton in 1914. Other families, both relatives and friends, originally immigrants from Gattinara in Piedmont, Italy, comprised a small enclave in that remote western region where employment opportunities had attracted them.

In 1920, Mrs. Berteletti required medical attention in McElister, Oklahoma. There, a doctor prescribed that she return to her birthplace for the natural therapy of the sunny Italian climate. So it was, that the parents and their three young sons retraced their steps to Gattinara.

Four years later, on June 7, 1924, they landed in America once again and re-settled in Canton. The boys, Michael 9, Walter 8 and Peter 5, attended the Revere School and then Canton High School.

In 1932, as a sophomore, Walter Berteletti was a starting halfback on the undefeated Canton football team that won nine consecutive games. Graduations left the 1933 squad with Berteletti the only remaining starter from the previous season. The team elected him to the position of captain in his junior year – an honor not duplicated before or after. He played the quarterback position in his senior year. Berteletti's fine athletic abilities carried over to baseball, where he excelled as a catcher for both school and club teams.

The country was mired in the Great Depression when Berteletti and 40 classmates graduated from Canton High on June 14, 1935. Canton's population of 6505 was in decline. War clouds were forming in Europe and Asia. Congress passed the first peacetime military draft legislation in 1940. In one of the earliest selective service call ups, five Canton young men were inducted: Donald Billings, Walter Landon, Joseph Riley, George Zachorne and John Bright. Berteletti volunteered and joined them for induction into the U.S. Army on February 11, 1941.

Almost four full years had passed since Berteletti entered the Army for what then was expected to be a 12-month tour of duty. He had served stateside and in Iceland. Now, as a seasoned infantryman in Company C, 334th Regiment of the 84th U.S. Army Division, he was about to take part in "Operation Clipper" – the code name given to the mission of dislodging and driving out the German forces from the Geilenkirchen area of the Siegfried Line on the German border.

On the 19th of November, Company C of the 334th Regiment could proudly claim two infantrymen in its ranks with Canton roots. Raymond G. Buckley, only 19 years old, took his place in the first platoon. He had been in the Army for only six months when he joined Company C on the front lines. Buckley had attended St. John's Grammar School and had graduated from Mechanics Arts High School in Boston.

Almost immediately, Buckley's platoon sergeant made him aware of another soldier in the fourth platoon who also was a native of Canton, Massachusetts. Front-line field conditions and the pressing, all encompassing mission at hand never allowed for the two Canton men to meet face-to-face — or even exchange greetings. Time outs just didn't materialize during the second half of November and early December 1944. The 84th Division faced a formidable foe committed to the defense of Prummern, Suggerath, Mullendorf, Beeck, Lindern, Leiffarth and Geilenkirchen — the main objectives of "Operation Clipper."

The German 183rd Volkgrenadier Division, which had suffered heavy casualties on the Russian front, blocked the advance of the 84th American division. Although not apparent at the time, the elite German 9th Panzer, the 10th SS Panzer and 15th Panzer Division had been moved up to prevent any breakthrough and to participate in the coming surprise German offensive centered 50 miles to the south. Later, it became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Simply summarized, the 84th Division successfully engaged the enemy and captured every one of its objectives in the Geilenkirchen sector during a month of heavy fighting. On December 3, after a particularly furious firefight to capture Leiffarth, Company C of the 334th Regiment dug in, anticipating German counter attacks. They came in full force on December 6, 1944.

On that day, Walter Berteletti was killed in action, along with numerous other American soldiers. Raymond Buckley was taken prisoner of war.

In August 1948, Berteletti's body was returned from Europe. A large delegation from local veterans' organizations met the flag-draped casket at Canton Junction station. At the funeral, all members of the firing detail and honor guard were Canton WWII veterans who had been former classmates, friends or comrades in arms. The cortege included the Canton selectmen, as well as other town officials and military units — a ceremony repeated for many of the 25 young men from Canton whose lives were extinguished in the worldwide conflict that spanned more than 2000 days, caused an estimated 50 million deaths, put 16 million Americans in uniform — including 750,000 from Massachusetts— and destroyed much of two continents.

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Because of its magnitude and the impact it had on the course of succeeding world affairs, no other event and no other war in the 20th century could compare even remotely with WWII. Every American Soldier, Sailor, Marine and Airman who served in that epoch struggle shared an experience that forever set him or her apart. For those who did not survive, their lasting redemption probably could best be found in the following words written in 1909 by Herbert Croly in "The Promise of American Life."

"Americans believe that somehow and sometime something better will happen to good Americans than has happened to men in any other country; and this belief, vague, innocent and unfounded though it may be, is the expression of an essential constituent in our *national ideal.*"

Sergeant Albert M. Callahan

Albert Matthew Callahan was one of the first Canton men to be in uniform prior to America's entry into World War II. As his surviving sister, Margaret Sears, recalls it, Albert and his boyhood friend John Griffin went together to an Army recruiting office in Boston in the fall of 1940 to enlist in the service. It was a fateful decision for both young men; each would die in the war that would involve the United States a year later.

Albert came from a large and prominent Canton family. He was one of the nine children of Cornelius and Mary Callahan who lived to adulthood. Others were sisters Mary, Alice, and Margaret and brothers, John, Charles, James, Cornelius and Francis. Born in 1918, Albert entered first grade at St. John's in the fall of 1923, graduated from its grammar school and went on to St. John's High School. He entered the work force in the late 1930s when the Great Depression was still raging and jobs were few and far between. One of his occupations, as recalled by his sister, was that of a bakery deliveryman.

He was an engaging chap, with a ready smile, and had many friends in town. One of his close chums was

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Photo courtesy of Margaret (Callahan) Sears

Sgt. Albert M. Callahan

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the late Albert D'Attanasio. All men in this country between ages 21 and 36 were required to register for the country's first peacetime draft on October 16, 1940. Albert Callahan beat the system to the punch by voluntarily enlisting, and by November 1940, he was in training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In World War II the Air Force was not a separate service branch but was part of the Army and known as the Army Air Corps. By enlisting, Albert was able to get into the Corps and would spend his service life with it.

Shortly after finishing basic training, Al married Beatrice E. Hotaling on January 3, 1941. The couple had one son, David, who was born on September 3, 1942. It was only a year later when the young father, by then a sergeant, perished. His widow composed a poignant memoir of him for a family history.

"I met Al at my parents' home on Neponset Street in Canton. I was introduced to Al by a friend. We began dating , and then later he joined the U. S. Army Air Force. I worked for the Leo J. Murray Company in Canton for a while.

"Al was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and during the course of time my parents and I moved to New Jersey. Al came to see me there on his leaves. We were married when he was on a leave, and eventually I moved to Fort Bragg to be near him. I worked for a major and his family, and Al would come there at night. I could always hear Al coming down the street, as he would be whistling. When I became pregnant, we got a four-room house off the post, and our son, Dave, was born in the Fort Bragg Hospital. I can remember when we were taking the baby home from the hospital, Al told the nurses 'we will be back again.' He was so proud of his son, and I know there would have been many more.

"After a short while, Al was sent to South Carolina before going overseas. I went to stay with my parents with the baby. After three months, Al sent me a telegram, which I still have, asking me to bring the baby down to South Carolina before he had to leave. I took the train and

he met us. (I had lost the pacifier and David was crying good.) We had one week to ten days together. A lovely family there let us have a room in their home, as they often took in officers and their wives. (I still have a letter from them dated 1944.) On Christmas Eve the family invited us downstairs to join all the officers and to sing Christmas carols. Al was holding Dave, and it was a joyous occasion.

"Al saw us off on the train, and I can still see him standing on the platform waving good-bye to us. That was the last time I saw Al.

"He went overseas serving in the North African area. He was injured in Catania, Sicily on September 2 and was taken on a Red Cross Hospital Ship headed for England, but he died at sea on September 6, 1943. I received beautiful letters from the nurse on the ship, the chaplain and a patient, all stating how he wished to get home to his family.

'He was a loving husband with a big grin and smiling Irish eyes and a proud father. He will always be in my heart and remembered."

Al apparently had been badly injured in an explosion in a building in Sicily, resulting in severe burns and his legs being broken. The British hospital ship was on its way to England when he succumbed, and he was buried at sea. First notice of his death came on October 22nd in a letter from another soldier who was on the ship. Then, on November 1, 1943, All Saints Day, came the official War Department telegram, which noted that he had died as a result of an explosion of Italian demolition grenades.

Later his family received notice of the citation given by the commanding general of the Ninth Air Force to Al's unit, the 340th Bombardment Group. It read: For outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in direct tactical support of the British Eighth Army in the Tunisian Campaign in the Middle East theatre from March 1943 to the capitulation of the Axis forces in Africa, and in support of our forces in the victorious occupation of Sicily. Living under conditions of great personal hardship and danger in the desert directly behind the advanced echelons of the ground forces and operating through all types of weather and despite frequent enemy attacks, the flying and ground personnel of this organization at all times exhibited the greatest courage, resourcefulness, initiative, efficiency, and devotion to duty. By the successful execution of devastating bombing attacks on enemy airdromes, supply lines, troops, and installations. in which were encountered intensive antiaircraft fire and repeated attacks by enemy fighter airplanes, numbers of which were destroyed, the organization contributed directly to the destruction of the enemy forces and expulsion of the Axis powers from the continent of Africa and from Sicily. The meritorious performance of missions and devotion to duty demonstrated by the 340th

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A memorial sign honoring Sergeant Albert M. Callahan will be dedicated at the corner of Independence and Pleasant Streets on Wednesday April 10 at 2 p.m.

Town will honor Fallen Hero William J. Casey

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

For the first time in the relatively brief history of the United States of America, the social barriers between ethnic groups began to fade at the time of WWII. Up to that time, rarely did the many nationalities that had flocked to the New World become truly integrated. The common denominator of language had been missing. Different customs and traditions also hindered the Americanization process. However, children from all groups came together in grammar schools and, through the medium of the English language, set the stage for the eventual elimination of ethnic isolationism. The process proved to be slow and lengthy but accelerated as a result of WWII when much of the civilian population intermingled in defense plants and young men from all sections of the country were mobilized into close knit military units.

It was under this changing environment that William J. Casey and Christina Leombruno met and married.

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William J. Casey was born in Boston on June 15, 1915, the son of Jeremiah, who was a native of Framingham, and Catherine Beatty Casey from South Boston. Their parents had emigrated from Galway, Ireland. In time, the family residence was established at 99 Leonard St. in Canton.

Bill and his brother Dan attended St. John's School. Three sisters rounded out the Casey family: Catherine, Mary and Helen. They later became Mrs. Edward Colligan, Mrs. Harry Ford and Mrs. John Hamilburg, respectively.

In the late 1930s Bill, Dan and their dad, Jeremiah, were employed at the Plymouth Rubber Company. It was there that Bill met Christina Leombruno.

William J. Casey

She and her brother (who also was employed at "the Plymouth") were born in Watertown. At age 4, however, the two children accompanied their pregnant mother to Abruzzo in Italy. The stay was planned for six months in order to rehabilitate Mrs. Leombruno from an illness. It turned out to be three years due to political turmoil in Italy between Fascist black shirts and Communist red shirts.

Finally, when Christina was 7, they received clearance and returned to America. When her mother and younger siblings became ill, Christina dropped out of school at age 15 to assume care of the family. Then, in the late 1930s during the height of the Depression, she obtained employment at the Plymouth Rubber Company.

On Bill Casey's 25th birthday, June 15, 1940, the couple was married in St. Patrick's Church in Watertown. For the first year, they lived with Bill's parents. Later, they shared an apartment on Leonard St. with her brother and sister-in-law, who had been married on the very same day in a Norwood ceremony.

Bill Casey's entry into the Army was delayed for a brief time by his mother's death on August 28, 1943. Soon thereafter, both Bill and Christina's brothers were drafted. As a result, Christina moved in with her sister-in-law, Catherine Casey. Today, she recalls the many moves she made in Canton and says, "I was befriended by many Cantonites, including Bill's relatives, Helen Tolias and her brother, Charles Tolias, the Lanzos family on Mechanic St., the R. Duguays, the Kates, the Digirolamos on Page St. and others. And now I look back on residing here on Messenger St. for 42 years."

On February 21, 1944 Bill Casey had completed basic training. The Army shipped him out to his overseas assignment — infantryman in the 337th Regiment of the 85th Division, a vital unit in the Fifth Army of General Mark Clark, which had taken Sicily and was then pushing up the Italian boot. The Allied Forces were bogged down along the Gustav Line just below Monte Casino. In an effort to break out, the Allies devised "Operation Shingle," an amphibious end run landing at Anzio behind the German lines. On January 22, 1944 German Commanding General Kesselring brought up eight of his divisions and succeeded in stopping the progress of the landing. The stalemate continued throughout the winter. On April 29, 1944 — during the renewed American spring offensive — infantryman Bill Casey was killed in action.

The Army officer's knock on the door followed by the War Department's letter of condolences brought the sad news to Christina, Catherine and the other members of the Casey family.

After the war, the three sisters and Christina made the decision not to have Bill's body returned for burial in Canton. Instead, he rests in Plot A, Row 9, Grave 21 at the American Cemetery & Memorial in Nettuno, Italy. The 77-acre cemetery site is an immense field of headstones bearing the names of the 7,862 American military dead from the campaigns in Sicily and the Italian mainland. On the white marble walls of the cemetery chapel are engraved the names of 3,095 other Americans missing in action whose remains were never recovered or identified.

Now, 58 years later on April 24, 2002 at 2 p.m., the Town of Canton — through its Fallen Hero Program — will extend a simple but dignified token of appreciation to William J. Casey for his supreme sacrifice in WWII by dedicating the corner of Sherman Ave. and Sherman St. in his memory.

It Seems Like Yesterday By Ed Lynch

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Ensign Robert Grimes Dallahan

The death of any young person in the service of his country is a sad event for his family, friends and community. These events are especially devastating when the person lost is one possessed of unusual and winning qualities of intelligence, morality and personality. Such a man was Robert Grimes Vincent Dallahan of this town who died in the Pacific on April 28, 1943 — only three days after his 21st birthday.

Bob was born on April 25, 1922, the only son and eldest child of Robert and Lillian (Grimes) Dallahan. He had four younger sisters, all of whom were much admired for their beauty.

His mother was an English major at Boston University and was a teacher before her marriage. His father had enlisted in the Army in World War I, and after the war, entered the Marine Corps, rising to the rank of Captain before going on inactive duty. After leaving the Marines, he served for many years as a drill instructor for the Boston School System and was an R.O.T.C. officer at Boston English.

The family lived at 25 Endicott Street, the family home of Lillian's father, James "Jim" Grimes — a popular and esteemed local businessman who owned a shoe store and was the chief operating officer of the Canton Co-Operative Bank.

Young Bob was born into an environment that was God-fearing, educationally oriented and patriotic, all of which much influenced his life. He was slim in stature and wore glasses. Although studious in appearance, he had a wry sense of humor and a talent for provocative conversation. His physical appearance contrasted with that of his father who was the prototype of a Marine Captain.

Robert Grimes Dallahan

Robert Senior was ramrod straight with a pugnacious chin and an aggressive stride. Occasionally, he visited the schoolyard at St. John's, where he was looked upon with awe by the children. Despite the outward differences between father and son, they had a close and loving relationship, as can be seen in their letters to each other.

Young Bob was a brilliant student. He graduated with honors from St. John's Grammar School in 1935 and went on to Canton High where he excelled in academics as well as being an active participant in school activities. He ranked first in the 65-member class of 1939. He amassed many honors: president of student government; literary editor of The Echo; secretary of the athletic association; recipient of the Reader's Digest award as top-ranking student; winner of the Washington-Franklin medal in American history; and a gold medal for debating. His most notable honor was a full four-year scholarship to Harvard, covering tuition, room and board.

His achievements at Harvard bordered on the spectacular. He was a member of the Class of 1943 but graduated in two and a half years in December of 1941 at the age of 19. His degree was granted magna cum laude and would have been summa if he had not graduated before the normal time. He was selected as one of the "Junior Eight" and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He also received from President Conant the Book Award at Adams House for the highest scholastic achievement. His major was classics and comparative philology, and he was a student of Greek, Latin and German. In addition, he was a member of the Army R.O.T.C. He felt a sense of urgency to move through college at a rapid pace. In one of his letters to his mother, he mentioned that the summer break consisted of 102 days, while summer school was only 32 days. He felt that he could not let the summer session go by because he wanted to finish quickly and get on with his future pursuits.

Like his classmates, he was well aware of the war in Europe and of America's situation. On August 2, 1940 he wrote to his father as follows: "This morning I received a letter from Mother telling of the news that you had been offered indefinite duty. It was wonderful to hear of it, and I congratulate you most sincerely. It is a real recognition of your ability and

years of service. You will, I hope, accept the offer. If we do eventually get into a jam, the country will need men of your caliber immediately ready to help. And moreover, the time to win any future war is right now — not after the war is declared. Honestly, I think it is your duty to accept; there are so few experienced and capable men available that every able officer owes it to the nation to offer his assistance....I suppose it's most impertinent for a young R.O.T.C. private to offer advice to a captain, but I thought you might like to hear various opinions before deciding."

Robert Dallahan, Sr. did take the Marines up on their offer and went on active duty and, thus, served in both world wars. Young Bob graduated from Harvard days after Pearl Harbor, and demonstrated that his patriotic sentiments were more than verbal. Early in 1942 he became a Naval Agent, and in February 1942 he enlisted as a yeoman 2nd class. At this time, a veil of mystery begins to surround some of his activities. He was in N.O.T.C., Naval Officers Training Corps, and also part of Naval Intelligence. He was part of an elite group consisting of six young and brilliant Harvard graduates and one Yale alumnus. As one Naval Officer put it years later, "They were the Navy's version of O.S.S. except that they were on the scene earlier."

Bob and his compatriots were sent to the University of California at Berkeley to study Japanese. He mastered the language in six months both in oral and written terms, though he complained in letters home that it was extremely difficult to handle the script if one was a poor penman. The group went on to further study at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Bob was commissioned an Ensign in January 1943. On February 16 he reported for duty with the Officer in Charge, Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area and was assigned to Combat Naval Intelligence at Pearl Harbor

On May 7 the telegram arrived that every mother dreaded: "The Navy Department deeply regrets to inform you that your son, Robert Grimes Dallaham, United States Naval Reserve, died on April 28. Body interred in locality where death occurred. The Department extends to you sincere sympathy on your great loss."

An aura of mystery surrounds his death. His surviving sisters do not know the circumstances, though they suspect that their father did. It seems clear that it was the result of a top-secret intelligence operation that involved the breaking of Japanese code. The work was so sensitive that his role in it could not be revealed. There has been much speculation concerning the manner of his passing. Was there any connection, for example, between the death of Admiral Yamamoto on April 18 and Ensign Dallahan on April 28? Yamamoto's plane was shot down by American warplanes as a result of our intelligence services breaking the code that contained the Admiral's travel schedule.

Bob's parents decided not to bring the body home to Canton but to inter him with other Naval dead in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. A memorial mass was celebrated for him at St. John's Church. When the service ended, no one in the hushed and full congregation moved until Bob's parents and sisters left the church. In the churchyard, the grieving family received the condolences of those present. The family remembers the great loss, the heart-broken parents, but, also, the fact they were not bitter as a result of the tragedy. They did not blame the government or God and retained a steadfast faith in Him.

What could Bob Dallahan have achieved in later life? We cannot know, but we can see his promise from accounts of those who knew him. In Bob's class report of 1948, Richard Gummere of the Harvard Classics Department wrote: "My mind goes back to when an attractive, intelligent, and earnest young man came to me for some work in Latin, and with steady brilliancy covered the work of the whole freshman year in one summer." According to his commanding officer, Bob was one of the younger and most capable and promising officers in the Navy. As a friend he was generous, always in high spirits, with an unusual social genius, eager for any kind of adventure, and with a dry New Englander's wit, which made him a brilliant conversationalist.

A memorial sign honoring Ensign Robert G. Dallahan will be dedicated at the corner of Endicott and Washington Streets on Wednesday May 1 at 2 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Parker Bryce Dodge

Parker Bryce Dodge was born in Hyde Park on June 29, 1924 and came to Canton with his family in 1931 when he was 7 years old. His father, Parker O. Dodge, was a Greyhound bus driver, and the family lived at 366 Washington Street on Ponkapoag Hill. Parker O. and his wife, Millicent, had two sons, Parker and Robert, and two daughters, Millicent and Barbara.

In the 1930s, Ponkapoag Hill was much more rural and bucolic than is the case today. It was a grand place in which to grow up, particularly with the Blue Hills Reservation and the M.D.C. Golf Course literally at one's front door. Young Parker loved to

Whittier Farm and to caddy at the local golf courses. His sister, Millicent Hainline — better known as "Sis" — remembers that Parker specially enjoyed caddying for Pat Tennessey, a generous tipper. Parker had three close boyhood friends: Harold Hansen, Roy Aldrich, and Milton Falls, and despite the hard times of the Depression years they enjoyed their childhood and youth.

His sister fondly recalls a fun-loving boy who built a soapbox go-cart he called the "Blueberry Special" – in which he could wheel around freshly picked berries for sale. He had an idyllic boyhood, enjoying the outdoors and attending the neighborhood Ponkapoag School before going on to the Eliot School and eventually Canton High School.

He was in his senior year when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and he wanted to enlist quickly. However, he respected his mother's wish that he wait until he graduated — which he did in June of 1942. A month later, he enlisted in the Navy and was on his way to Newport News, Virginia to begin recruit training

Parker Bryce Dodge

His naval service lasted just short of three years, and during that time, he was only able to be home on leave one time. After boot training, he was assigned to destroyer duty and was sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to help outfit the ship that would become his home: the Destroyer Escort Luce, also known as DD 552.

The destinations of a lot of his voyages aboard the Luce were not known to his family because of wartime censorship and security considerations. Apparently, the ship traveled to many overseas ports, as his sister has post cards from such places as Gibraltar and Casablanca.

In the spring of 1945, however, the Luce was in the Pacific Ocean and involved in the invasion of Okinawa.

On the early morning of May 4, 1945 Japanese Kamikaze pilots went on suicide bombing missions against the American fleet anchored off Okinawa. One of their targets was the Luce. The little destroyer maneuvered in time to escape the first attempt on it, but the bomb exploded so close to it that the concussion knocked out the ship's electrical power. A second attack plane crashed into the after section of the Luce. With its port engine out, the rudder jammed and most of the engineering compartments flooded, the Luce took a pronounced list to starboard.

Parker Dodge, a machinist mate, second class, was stationed in the vessel's engine room. Less than half an hour after the attacks began, a fierce explosion racked the destroyer, and she sank with a loss of almost a third of her crew. Parker never had a chance to escape, and his body was never recovered.

On June 1, the Navy informed his parents that Parker was missing in action. After a cruel wait for more hopeful news, the family was officially notified on July 15, 1945 that he had been killed in action.

A memorial sign honoring Machinists Mate 2/c Parker B. Dodge will be dedicated at the corner of Turnpike and Washington Streets on Wednesday May 8 at 2 p.m.

It Seems Like Yesterday By Ed Lynch

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Corporal Donald J. Galligan

Donald Gallligan is now remembered by only a few old-timers, but in his youth he was one of the best liked and popular young men in this town. The Galligan family was an old and honorable one in Canton; his father, Hugh, had a grocery store in the middle of the block between Church and Neponset Streets. Donald's older brother, Eugene, was our first town counsel and held that job for decades. His younger sister, Genevieve, worked at the local Edison office and was an attractive lady who dressed so tastefully that the old Boston Post newspaper would often snap her picture at the Easter Parade.

The Galligan family lived at 814 Washington Street at the corner of Chapel Street, a short walk from Canton High School (now the Hemenway Housing Complex) where Donald excelled in sports. He was one of the best baseball players who ever came out of the town with a pure love of the game. He was a catcher but also could play the infield or outfield, and most of all was a born hitter.

Paul "Sparky" Keleher describes him as a dead-pull hitter who hit majestic rockets out of the old Messinger Street ball field that caromed off houses across the street. Donald acquired the nickname "Goose" because he played ball like the famous Washington Senators outfielder of the time, Goose Goslin.

Pat Leonard remembers the day that Goose, playing for the Canton Athletic Association, hit a blast down the left field line over a towering oak, across Messinger Street, shattering a second-story window of a house, with the ball landing in a bath tub where the lady of the house was taking a bath. When the team sent a representative to make apologies, the owner of the house said that he would not charge them to repair the window but that he would keep the ball. He was a woodworker who mounted the ball and kept it on a pedestal on his mantel.

Goose Galligan was not only a skilled player, he was, in Sparky Keleher's words, "a holler guy," one who kept a team on its toes with his enthusiasm. He was kind to the little kids in the area who followed his fortunes as a star at Canton High and later for the Canton Athletic Association.

He graduated from Canton High in the mid-1920s and went on to Burdett Business School. He went into the job market as the Depression set in, and like so many other young people, he took what he could find in the way of employment. Even though jobs were scarce, one of his contemporaries says that if it was a question of the job or the game, he would never miss a ball game. At various times he worked in the local mills, drove a truck and was employed at the Fore River Ship Yard.

Donald was born in 1907 and thus was relatively old when the United States entered World War II. Even though he had a defense job, he nevertheless went into military service on April 21, 1942 in the first manpower levy to leave directly from Canton. Prior draftees had had to assemble in Dedham. Leaving with Donald that morning were Earl M. Staples, Joseph P. Pocara, Edward M. Cohen, Albert Fisher, Samuel E. Malcolmson, Nicola Fiello, Archie T. Nelson, Leland Hiltz, Ernest W. Verity, Michael A. Vendetti, and the designated leader of the group Augustine S. Decembrele.

DONALD J. GALLIGAN,
Corporal U. S. Army.

Sixty years later, little is known of the details of Donald Galligan's military service. He went into the Army at Fort Devens and had advanced to the rank of Corporal when nine months to the day from the time he left Canton his death occurred. His mother was informed in January 1943 that he had died "in the Western European area" of undetermined causes.

Subsequent information indicated that he died and was buried in Iceland. One can speculate that at his age the rigors of military life may have been too much for his physical constitution despite his prior history as an athlete.

Donald was one of the oldest of our men to die in World War II, and he was also the first one whose body was returned to Canton for burial. He came home on November 24, 1947 accompanied by an Army honor guard on a train met at Canton Junction by representatives of the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars who escorted the casket to the Dockray Funeral Home where he lay in state that night. The following morning there was a cortege to St. John's Church led by a police escort and fellow veterans.

Others present were Carleton Taber, Maurice Ronayne and John Howard of the Board of Selectmen, a delegation from the Knights of Columbus and scores of citizens from the town. The pall bearers were from the Legion and the V.F.W. and represented every branch of the service. The mass was celebrated by the Reverend Robert E. Lee; the organist was Mrs. Henry Galligan, and James Mosely, Anthony Ammendolia, and Mrs. William Reynolds were the soloists. Donald Galligan is buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

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A memorial sign will be dedicated to Corporal Donald J. Galligan at the corner of Washington and Chapel Streets on Wednesday May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* John J. Gately

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

The June 1935 high school graduates were filled with the same spirit and enthusiasm as their counterparts of today. Youth knows no fear of tomorrow and optimism abounds. Neither the dire Great Depression nor the gathering international war clouds dimmed their hopes and aspirations.

Canton's graduating class in 1935 consisted of 23 boys and 18 girls. At that time, many local girls attended St. John's High School, which accounted for the disparity. Who among the graduates could foresee that another world war would alter all of their lives and that three of them would be casualties of that conflict? Twenty-two others from Canton also would be cut down in the war of the century. The Canton Fallen Hero Program is an attempt to remember and to honor those who did not return as well as all veterans.

One of those three ill-fated Canton boys from the Class of 1935 was John J. Gately. Born on May 9, 1917, he had completed St. John's grammar school prior to attending Canton High School. John was the only son of Joseph and Agnes Leary Gately. He and his sister, Margaret, grew up in the blue-collar surroundings of Endicott Place, where concentrations of first- and second-generation immigrants resided. When Joseph Gately died unexpectedly at age 26 from an appendectomy, Mrs. Gately struggled to provide for herself and her two children. Her daughter moved in with aunts, the Leary's, on Mechanic St. and John remained with his mother.

The loss of his father actually reinforced the very positive personal traits of young John Gately. Witness to his character is evident from the words of Patrick J. Leonard, Sr., former Cantonite and now longtime resident of Braintree. "John was the most decent fellow I ever met," he said. "We first came together at First Communion class and later became

John J. Gately

good friends. He grew to six feet, about 200 pounds, dark brown hair, blue eyes, always an air of dignity, spoke slowly and only after considering what he was going to say.

"He was one of those guys who looked directly into your eyes when conversing with you: a fellow everyone instinctively liked and respected. He played football hard and fairly. He was in on every play."

A former naval officer of WWII, who now resides in Manchester, CT., Walter Sodano, recalls John Gately as a neighbor, classmate and friend during the 1920s and 1930s.

His recollections are clear: "John was a gentleman as a young boy and all through Canton High," he said. "His family and ours were neighbors on Endicott St./Endicott Place. I carry a lasting memory of his toughness as a football player. During one of Bill Donovan's 1934 scrimmages, John tackled me, resulting in a torn knee ligament that has given me pain for all my adult life. He was a wonderful guy. Oh, and his sister Peggy was a beautiful girl!"

Police Chief, Peter Bright, voiced another tribute to John Gately, on behalf of his late father, Steve Orlow Bright, lifelong resident, former selectman and town official. Chief Bright underscored the fact that his dad wished to have a nearby corner dedicated to his friend, John Gately. Unfortunately, Steve passed away, but an incident in their lives has survived.

"As young boys of 15 or 16 my dad, John Gately and others were swimming at the Rez," Chief Bright recalled. "My dad developed cramps and was in danger of drowning. John, without hesitation, went to his rescue, thus preventing a tragedy. Dad never forgot John's willingness to risk his own life for another".

In his senior year, John was named captain of the high school football team. He was the starting left guard on an enthusiastic squad that played a ten-game schedule. On Thanksgiving Day in 1934, led by the Legion Band, cars and spectators, the team arrived at the Stoughton field for the traditional, hard-fought final contest of the year. It ended scoreless. The account of the game in the press concluded with these words: "As the final whistle blew, Captain John Gately dropped from exhaustion. He had played a fine game throughout and when asked by referee Charles Frolio about three minutes before the game ended if he wanted to leave, he flatly refused and completed the entire contest without a replacement."

Shortly after the nation became involved in WWII, John Gately was inducted into the U.S. Army. He completed basic training and then served for two years at Camp Meade, Maryland. From there, John was shipped overseas and ultimately was assigned to the famous Big Red One, First Infantry Division, 18th Infantry Regiment. The 1st Division, along with the 29th Division, led the assault on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion of the continent on June 6, 1944.

By mid December 1944, the American ground forces had advanced through France and Belgium to the German border. The 1st Division occupied a sector of the front beyond Malmedy, Belgium. There, on December 16, the German Army launched its last gasp counteroffensive all along the front. This event is best remembered by the catchall name: Battle of the Bulge. In fact, that famous and costly battle was one of many engagements along the entire front. In the North facing the Big Red One and other American Army divisions were the 1st and 2nd SS Panzer Corps (multiple divisions).

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Dietrich Rasetzki

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

One can only wonder about possible difficulties a German immigrant family would face in 1924 on its arrival in the Boston area. WWI had ended a mere six years earlier. Neither side was satisfied with the Versailles Treaty. Post-war Germany was in turmoil – runaway inflation, mass unemployment, violent clashes between divergent political groups were the outgrowth of the war and the ensuing harsh reparations imposed on the country at Versailles.

In America, people tried to forget the Great War as they plunged into the Roaring Twenties. Just beneath the surface a lingering animosity toward Germans persisted in many communities.

The ethnic makeup of New England did not mirror that of the Midwest and parts of the South where German settlers over the course of more than a century often had established vibrant majorities. During the Civil War, German/American generals commanded entire units of German/American soldiers in the Union Army. Their first language was German. At one point in American history, the question of a national language was debated and revolved around the choice between German and English.

For reasons that are unclear today, Alfred and Margrit Rasetzki, with their two young sons, Nicolas and Dietrich, did not choose the Midwest but rather a small Massachusetts town for their adopted new home. That town was Canton.

Dietrich at age 9 mastered English rapidly. By 1932, when he graduated from Canton High School, he was considered one of the brightest, yet unassuming, members of his class. He had acquired the nickname of "Deety." Canton native and source of local information Peter Sarra says Dietrich's contemporaries "saw him as a young man of considerable ability, studious and deeply religious."

1st Lt. Dietrich Rasetzki

Bill Kelleher, another unofficial town historian, remembers Dietrich's brother, Nicolas very well. "He was my college English teacher at Northeastern University after WWII," he said. "Occasionally, I drove him from Northeastern University to Boston University, where his fiancée was a professor. Nicholas was also an accomplished violinist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and had held the fulltime position of personnel manager at the Tobe Deutchman plant."

These anecdotes simply confirm the fact that the Rasetzki boys were innately intelligent and focused on utilizing fully their native abilities.

After graduating from high school, Dietrich attended Hobart College, where he received his AB degree in 1936. For the next three years he did post-graduate studies at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge. In 1941 he completed his studies at the Andover-Newton Theological School and then was ordained into the ministry.

During his years in training, Dietrich served as assistant pastor in South Boston, Westwood, Quincy and Newburyport. From 1941 until he volunteered for the Army in July 1943, Dietrich held the position of pastor in Chester, NH. By then, he had married Frances Griffin of Abington.

The racial undertones he may have faced as a youth in 1924 must have been miniscule compared to those he most likely encountered in 1943, when America and Germany were mortal enemies on the battlefields of Europe.

Yet, in the face of this resourceful, resolute and religious man, anyone contemplating some unwarranted ethnic remark most certainly would have demurred.

Where he took his Army training is not known. He was assigned as a 1st Lt. Chaplain to the 119th Regiment in the 30th Division known as "Old Hickory." The division had been reactivated in 1940 and sent overseas in 1944. During the course of WWII, the 30th Division spent 282 days in combat in France and Germany.

As an officer in this front-line unit, Dietrich was a valuable asset with his fluency not only in German but other related languages as well. On July 25, 1944 Old Hickory took part in the breakthrough at St. Lo in Normandy. During that campaign, Lt. Dietrich Rasetzki was killed by artillery or bombing.

In May 1948 his body was returned for burial at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. The military ceremony, with appropriate full honors, was followed by private services conducted by Rev. John R. Dallinger, who at one time had been the rector of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Canton.

Dietrich Rasetzki accomplished much in his civilian and military careers. His life example helped remove the ethnic hyphen from himself and other immigrants. It was replaced by the simple designation – AMERICAN.

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1st Lt. Rasetzki's Fallen Hero plaque will be dedicated on Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at the corner of Pequit and Washington Streets.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* William F. Roach

Patriotism can be displayed in any ways. One is to place one's life the line for your country, of your n free will. Bill Roach was a man 42 years when he volunteered for val service in World War II. At his e, he did not have to go.

All who remember him, like Bobby saturo and Bill's cousins, Mary gan McLean and Mary McGrath erey, describe him as a cheerful, miling, jolly, rotund man who loved ople and who loved life. pparently, he also loved his country nough to volunteer at an age when o man was conscripted and only ose who wanted to serve did so.

Bill grew up at 155 Mechanic treet, one of four children of James nd Mary (Sweeney) Roach. He had two brothers, Jim and Mike, and a sister, Mary — known as May. Their nother died when the children were young, but the father kept the family together with the help of Sweeney elatives. Bill was born in 1901 at he beginning of the twentieth century, and like most of the kids in he Bolivar, Mechanic and Rockland Street area got his formative education from the good sisters of St. Joseph at St. John's School. He was popular in town and chummed around with his pals Johnny Pesaturo and Benny Clerkin.

When Bill went into the labor force, imes were good, as America enjoyed the prosperity of the "Roaring Twenties." He informally apprenticed himself to a local electrician, Jimmy Calhoun, and learned the trade from him. Bill was good at his work, but when the Depression set in, assignments grew scarce, and he had to improvise to make a living. He knew how to cook and was happy to be a chef at the Canton Diner.

By 1940 the defense preparation activities, such as the establishing of Camp Edwards, brought new job opportunities to men like Bill Roach. By 1942 his skills were in demand, but Bill elected to serve his country by enlisting in the Navy at the age of 42 in September 1943. The Navy recognized that it had a very qualified recruit and Bill received rapid promotions, finally getting an electrician's rating of Petty Officer Second Class.

He wound up serving on the U.S.S. Mt. Hood, a 3733-ton ammunition ship that entered the Pacific on August 20, 1944, as part of the Philippine invasion armada.

Bill's duty on the Mt. Hood technically was not considered hazardous, but, indeed, serving on any ammunition carrier was fraught with danger.

In November 1944 the Mt. Hood was at Seeadler's Harbor on Manus Island, one of the Admiralty Islands northeast of New Guinea. Damaged ships from the Battle of Leyte Gulf were limping into the harbor for repairs and refitting. It had been a preparatory base for the return of American forces to the Philippines and was then a repair depot and dry dock. The Mt. Hood was restocked with explosives, and the ammunition on ships in the harbor for repair was off-loaded onto barges, which were towed by the Mt. Hood.

Unbeknownst to Bill Roach, another Canton sailor, Hobie Hughes, was on a minesweeper in the harbor at the same time. At 8:04 a.m. on November 10, 1944, Hobie was on deck trying to breath in the hot, humid, tropical air, when suddenly there were two explosions and the Hood simply blew up. "I saw a vivid white flash and a large ring of fire ascend skyward," Hobie recounted. "The frightening spectacle spread across the morning sun, now a dull orange color but soon blotted out completely by dense clouds of white and black smoke. Still unaware of what had happened, I watched in terror as a tremendous tidal wave struck, rolling us over on our beam ends. Along with the wave came blackness, utter blackness, as the smoke rolled down over us blotting out everything."

William F. Roach

Hobie Hughes survived, but Bill Roach and all others aboard the Mt. Hood were killed. On the ocean floor, beneath where the Hood had been, was a hole over 1000 feet long and 80 feet deep. The explosion resulted in 45 men being declared known dead and 327 others initially listed as missing.

The Hood had a complement of 218, and at the time of the explosion there was a working party on shore with one officer and 17 men. That left 300 sailors aboard. Total casualties were 372, as 72 men on neighboring vessels were also killed. The 45 known dead were those who could in some way be identified; the others were vaporized, literally blown to atoms.

The Roach family was notified on November 30 that Bill was missing in action, and in February 1945, they were told that he had been killed.

A Court of Inquiry attributed the explosion to neglect and carelessness, though Hobie Hughes believes that the culprit might have been a miniature Japanese submarine.

In later years, Hobie became superintendent of the Canton Corner Cemetery, and Bill Roach's brother, Mike, served as the town's tree warden. Mike would often drop in to see Hobie and ask him to recall agai the events of that terrible Novembe morning on which his brother foreve disappeared.

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A memorial sign honorin Electrician's Mate Second Clas William F. Roach will be dedicate on Wednesday August 7 at 2 p.m. the corner of Crane and Mechani Streets.

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Harold P. Rolfe

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

Harold P. Rolfe

In 1944 the war had finally turned in favor of the Allies on all fronts. Leningrad fell in January, the US bombed Tokyo, the Japanese fleet suffered a critical defeat at the Battle of the Philippines Sea, and on June 6th, D-Day, the largest armada ever assembled set in motion the reconquest of Europe. By the end of the third week in July, American ground forces were set to break out of Normandy toward Paris and Germany itself.

Yet, these territorial successes held no particular advantages for the solitary combatants on land, sea and in the air — except for the hope that each day brought them closer to the war's end and that they would survive.

Regrettably, it did not end soon enough for many on both sides of that worldwide conflict. On July 25, 1944 two young men from Canton became victims of the battles for Normandy. They probably never knew one another; they served in different divisions, one as a chaplain, the other an infantryman; one was an officer, the other an enlisted man. What they shared was their hometown roots, a khaki uniform and the fateful, final day of their abbreviated lives.

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Pfc. Harold P. Rolfe was born in Quincy on July 22, 1918 to Harold and Frances B. Tevenan Rolfe. The family moved to Canton during the mid 1930s. They lived at several residences in town, including one at 210 Sherman Street and another at 79 Prospect Street. The family grew to include four boys who adapted well to their small town surroundings. The oldest, Harold, was followed by Albert, then Francis and finally Robert.

(continued on page 6)

Hero Harold P. Rolfe

(continued from page 1)

Harold Rolfe, Sr. worked as a foreman at the Readville car shops of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. His son, Harold Jr., followed in his footsteps at the car shops. John Cushman, veteran of WWII and Canton native, enjoyed a close relationship with Harold in his youth. "He was a regular guy who got along well with the group that hung around together," John remembered.

Paul "Sparky" Keleher, also a Canton born veteran and now a resident of Norwood, knew both Francis and Harold, Jr. quite well. At the outset of his military service, Paul attended an Army Special Services Program at Syracuse University. There he met up with Pfc. Harold Rolfe, who was returning from his first duty station in Alaska. They enjoyed a weekend together.

Although married, Harold was drafted in September 1942. He reported to Fort Dix, New Jersey, then to Camp Croft, South Carolina for basic training. He received additional training at Camp McKay in Wisconsin and Fort Meade, Maryland.

Brothers Francis and Albert also served in the US Army. Robert enlisted in the US Air Force following WWII. All are now deceased.

In May 1944 Pfc. Harold Rolfe shipped out of New York harbor for an unspecified destination. It turned out to be the ancestral home of his mother: Ireland. There he was integrated in the 8th US Army Division. The "Arrow Division" had been reactivated in 1940 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. From its staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, the division boarded and sailed out of New York in December 1943. It debarked and headed for Belfast, Northern Ireland, where it underwent extensive training.

Division headquarters were located at Omagh, County Tyrone. On July 4, 1944 the division arrived at Utah Beach. It entered combat on July 8. The division would log 266 days of combat, suffer 2239 killed in action, 514 missing in action and 10,370 wounded. At war's end, the 8th division had fought all the way to Schwerin in Mechlenburg, Germany.

The 8th Division command post in late July 1944 was at La-Haye-du-Puits, a small town where another US division (the 79th) has erected a WWII monument commemorating the battle for Normandy.

General Omar Bradley launched his massive Operation Cobra on July 25, 1944. His divisions were massed along the St. Lo to Periers road that had been built by the Romans and was straight as an arrow. Saturation bombing by B-17s was to precede the infantry assaults.

The raids of 1600 bombers were to have been made on a parallel path to the St. Lo/Periers road. Instead, the planes came in during bad weather at right angles to the road. This "friendly fire" resulted in over 125 deaths and 500 wounded American soldiers over a period of two days. Lt. General Lesley J. McNair also was killed as a result of the bombings. The air attacks did succeed, however, in devastating the German defenders. Quickly, American divisions poured south through the opening created by the B-17 carpet bombings.

Pfc. Harold Rolfe died during this Normandy breakout battle. A fellow Canton comrade, Dietrich Razetski, also perished on the very same day in the very same sector of the front. Were they casualties of the bombs that went astray? It probably will never be determined. Most likely, Pfc. Harold Rolfe met his fate in the breakout battles that followed the bombings.

In September 1948, the body of Pfc. Harold P. Rolfe arrived at Canton Junction accompanied by an Army honor guard. It was transported to the home of his parents on Prospect Street for the wake, which preceded a mass and burial at St. Mary's new cemetery. The cortege from the home and church included the Board of Selectmen, police, veterans' organizations and Canton veterans who served as pallbearers.

In that year, 1948, many of Canton's WWII dead were brought home. In this year, 2002, on August 14 at 2 p.m., after a lapse of 52 years, Canton once again will honor Pfc. Harold P. Rolfe for his sacrifice by dedicating the corner of Pequit and Sherman Streets in his memory.

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Gerald W. Scully

One of the cruelest messages the family of a serviceman can receive is that he is "missing or missing in action."

His loved ones pray for the best, fear the worst, and as time goes on, have a continuing heartache that never reaches closure. One such case is that of Gerald W. Scully, a World War II casualty from this town.

Gerald and his twin sister, Geraldine, were born here on June 25, 1918 to Dennis and Katherine Scully, a couple who had emigrated from Ireland to Canton. In the 1941 town census, Dennis' occupation is listed as "gardener."

Dennis was a little man with a mustache and a lilting brogue, who was active in the local division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The family lived on Washington Street in the house that is now the flower shop next to Rosario's Restaurant. In 1940 they moved around the corner to 25 Rockland Street.

The twins attended St. John's School from 1924 until they graduated from St. John's High School in 1935. Gerry made friends easily and had many of them. One of Gerry's friends, Walter Bucci, remembers them all as "wonderful fellows and good men."

Besides Walter, others in the group included Frank "Buddy" Brown, Johnny Kelliher, Dave Crowley, and Johnny Roe.

Photo courtesy of Gerald W. Buckley

Gerald W. Scully

Despite the bleak economic times in which he graduated, Gerry, like so many of the other men we salute in this series, managed to find employment of one sort or another. He worked for two years at Sawyer's Hardware at the corner of Mechanic and Washington Streets. He later worked at the Schindler factory and was a carder at the Neponset Woolen Mills. Wherever he went he was well liked, for he was a good looking young man with an engaging personality.

In the fall of 1940 Congress, by a narrow vote, enacted its first peacetime military draft. It was a preparedness measure, and it required only 12 months of service before the inductee would be released to return to civilian life. A popular song of the time was "Good bye dear, I will be back in a year." Among the early draftees from Canton was Gerry Scully, who left here for camp on March 5, 1941, along with John W. Cushman and Victor P. Philbrick.

Unfortunately, not a great deal is known about his military service, except that he was in the Army and obtained in short order the rank of sergeant. His theater of action was the Pacific, and he saw action in New Caledonia and also on Guadalcanal, where he received a wound that earned him a Purple Heart. He contracted a case of malaria that was severe enough to have him air-lifted from Gudalcanal to a rear hospital. The evacuation plane took off and was never seen again.

Gerry's parents were notified on February 7, 1943 that he was missing in action. It was not until January 13, 1944 that he was declared dead. His sister's son, Gerald Buckley of Walpole is named for him.

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A memorial sign honoring Sergeant Gerald W. Scully will be dedicated on Wednesday August 21 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Rockland and Washington Streets.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Arthur A. Smith

Arthur Smith gave his life for his country 58 years ago last week. But despite the passage of time, family and friends still fondly remember him as a fine young man with rich potential.

He was born in Chelsea in 1922 and came to Canton as a small child. He grew up in a large family, with five half-sisters, Alice, Virginia, Dorothy, Carol and Judith Dumaine, and two half-brothers, Fred and William Dumaine. The family lived in a house at the corner of Sherman and Washington Streets before moving to Meyer Terrace in the 1930s.

His boyhood chum, Ralph Malcolmson, recalls Arthur as a "nice, handsome boy" of medium build. The two boys would often go from Springdale, where they lived, to swim in Frog Pond and Ice House Pond on Bailey Street. Sometimes the lads would hitchhike to Stoughton to spend a dime on a movie.

Other close friends of Arthur included the Irving brothers, Ted and Andy, and Dickie Plummer. His sister Virginia describes her brother as a "handsome looking-guy, about 5'7" or 5'8" with wavy black hair."

Those Depression years were a struggle for existence for any family, but especially so for one as large as the Dumaines. Arthur would have been in the Class of 1940 at Canton High School but dropped out of school to help the family. He was awarded a diploma posthumously in May 2000.

After leaving school, Arthur worked as an electrician's apprentice with his uncle, Ernest Smith, and was also employed at Westinghouse Electric in Boston.

Arthur fell in love with the girl who literally lived nest door. She was Irene Hinchcliffe, and the couple was married on September 19, 1942. Not long after that he was called into military service. His draft group left Canton on November 28, 1942 and included men like Dick MacLeod and Charlie Tolias, who would have valorous service ahead of them. By some assignment quirk, a lot of Canton boys — including Arthur Smith, Charlie Tolias, Dick Macleod, Fred Buckley, Maurice Ronayne, and Jack Howard — all wound up in the 30th Infantry Division, a recently federalized National Guard outfit from Tennessee.

Known as the "Old Hickory" division, the 30th saw extensive action in both World Wars. Arthur trained with the division at Camp Blanding, Florida, in Tennessee, and at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Arthur was assigned to Company "K" of the 119th Regiment and went overseas to England in February 1944.

The 30th Division is considered to be one of the most battle-experienced units to have fought on the Western front. It landed on Omaha Beach on June 10, fought in the hedgerows of Normandy, and led the breakout at St. Lo. The division was near the small French village of Mortain on the evening of August 6, 1944 when the Germans launched a fierce counter-attack, led by four Panzer divisions and heavy artillery bombardment.

For five days the 30th was encircled and under concentrated shelling, but they would not give ground.

On August 12, Arthur Smith was killed, presumably during the German shelling. Ironically, August 12 was also the day the 30th Division was relieved by the 35th.

The history of the 30th Division states, "The fact that the 30th Division held out against such a major attack is amazing in itself. Additionally it was important that the German forces were fixed at Mortain, allowing the air strikes, artillery barrages, and tank hunting infantry teams to exact a terrible toll on the strongest divisions the Germans had in the region...By leaving the 30th unrelieved at Mortain, General Bradley was able to fix the Germans on this bait and begin an encirclement of the entire German Army Group B."

At the time of Arthur's death, Charlie Tolias had left the 30th to volunteer as a Ranger. He had kept in touch with Arthur, seeing him in England before the invasion. On August 13 he ran into an acquaintance from the 30th Division who told him that Arthur had been hit the previous day.

Arthur's wife, Irene, was notified by the War Department on October 20 that he was missing in action since August 12. His last letter to her had come in July. On December 27 she received official notice of his death.

A memorial service for him was held at the Evangelical Congregational Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday January 7, 1945. Reverend Frederick A. Hayes, the minister who married Arthur and Irene, conducted the service, and the first Gold Star was placed on the church's service flag

Arthur Smith's body is interred in a United States Military Cemetery in France. His widow never remarried.

There will be a memorial sign dedicated to P.F.C. Arthur A. Smith at the corner of Bolivar and Pleasant Streets on Wednesday August 28 at 2 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Michael John Julian

The account of his death in the local paper referred to him as "John" Julian, but he was christened Michael John and was known that way by his family. Both Mansfield and Canton can take pride in this World War II fallen hero, for he resided in and made a contribution to both localities.

Michael (Mike) Julian was born May 27, 1912, the eldest son of Joseph and Catherine Julian of Mansfield. There were to be three additional brothers in the family: Joseph Jr., Bruno and Edward. There was an older sister, Gilda, and another sister, Vera, who died when she was 17 — while Mike was in college.

At 5'9", Mike was not a big man, but his frame housed an outstanding athlete. In addition to playing baseball at Mansfield High School, he was the quarterback of the football team and captain of the basketball team. (In December of 2001, he was enshrined in the Mansfield High School Athletic Hall of Fame in honor of his exploits. And since 1955, an award for the 'Most Improved Player' has been given in his name to a member of the Mansfield High football squad.

Mike graduated from high school in 1930 — into the beginnings of the Great Depression. Nevertheless, he went on for further study and athletics at Cushing Academy in Ashburnham and from there to St. Anselm's College. Mike left St. Anselm's after a year, however, as the ravages of the Depression prevailed. But in his year there, he played on the football team with Ray "Scooter" McLean, who went on to fame with the Chicago Bears.

Mike's father was a manager of one of the ten or so Moro's markets located around what is now the Hockomock area. As Mr. Moro went into retirement, he allowed his managers to buy their own stores. Joe Julian, Mike's father, bought the Canton store, which was located on Washington Street, directly across from St. John's Church in the block recently demolished. Joe Julian acquired the establishment in the late 1930s. It was an Italian market and quickly gained a reputation for high quality meat. Old-timers still recall its friendly atmosphere, sawdust on the floor, and superb beef.

Private First Class Michael John Julian

When Mike came home from college, he joined his father in managing the Canton store and became well known and popular in the town. He courted a girl from Norwood, Helen Owens, and married her in November 1939.

The young couple decided to live in Canton and bought a home at 858 Pleasant Street. They were living there at the time of the birth of their son, John Michael, on March 20, 1943, and it was from that home that Mike was drafted on August 10, 1943 along with fifteen other young men of the town.

On that day, exactly half the levy went into the Army and the other half to the Navy. Mike Julian went to the Army, along with William J. Casey, Robert E. Armstrong, Thomas F. Finn, Fred F. Lull, Edward Hays, Edward A. Simons and Daniel N. Anagnoston. Of that group, William Casey would also become a fatality of the war.

The Navy that day claimed Arthur W. Fitzgerald, Paul A. Baker, Thomas E. McDermott, John A. Uliano, Joseph A. Meadows, Joseph E. Wells and Dominic Cardarelli.

With the departure of Michael Julian to the Army, his parents could now have pride in four sons in the service of their country: Joe Jr. with the Marines, Bruno in the Navy and Edward, 13 years younger than Mike, in the Army Air Corps.

Mike did his basic training in South Carolina and went overseas on June 16, 1944. By then, the Army was in heavy fighting in Normandy and recycling men quickly to the front. Mike spent only one week in England before being shipped to the front in France. He was in combat only two weeks and involved in the fierce battle near St. Lo, where he was severely wounded on July 30, 1944. He was evacuated to a hospital in England where he died on August 2. It was not until September 9 however, that his family received word from the War Department of his death.

After the war, Mike's body was brought home, and he was buried in Highland Cemetery in Norwood, where his widow would join him 53 years later. He is survived by his son, John, of Norwood and his brother, Ed, of Dennis.

***

A memorial sign honoring Private First Class Michael J. Julian will be dedicated at the corner of Sherman and Pleasant Streets on Wednesday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Andrew Ross Wood, Jr.

Lt. Andrew R. Wood, Jr.

Andrew R. Wood, Jr. was the first Canton man to give his life for his country in World War II.

Born in Scotland on December 7, 1917, he was the son of Andrew and Jeannie (Duncan) Wood. His father was the captain of a fishing trawler, and during World War I was an officer in charge of three minesweepers in the Royal Navy.

Of the eight children in the family, five were born in Scotland and three in America. (Sadly, two of his siblings died young.) With relatives in the United States, the Woods decided to emigrate here shortly after the end of the First World War. They wound up in Canton in the then remote and rural area of Indian Lane. There, Mr. Woods, Sr. — with the help of neighbors — built his house. He was skilled in carpentry work and did it both as a vocation and as an avocation.

Andrew was a fine looking young man, whose closest friend was his neighbor, Harry Tracy. Andrew was a good athlete and played football at Canton High School for Coach Donovan. He graduated with the Class of 1935 and pursued further studies at Burdett Business School, Boston University and the Lowell Institute.

At the time, jobs were hard to come by, but Andrew found employment as a woodworking machine operator at Phillips Screw Company in Stoughton. His youngest brother, Douglas, in a recent letter, tells something of Andrew's life and death.

"My brother, Andrew, was next to the oldest in a family of four brothers and two sisters," Douglas wrote. "He is survived by his sister Peggy Linss, a brother, William Wood, and me, Douglas Wood. His sister Peggy served as a field hospital nurse in the Philippines during WW II, and two of his brothers saw combat on troop and transport supply ships in the Atlantic during the war. Both his parents contributed to the war effort. His mother was a nurse at Wiggins Airport, where glider struts were fabricated, and his dad worked as an inspector of critical parts at Phillips Screw Factory.

"...In high school Andrew was a recognized athlete and was awarded several letters. In addition, I have in my possession a medal and poem awarded to him for outstanding performance on the football field. He later completed business school education before joining the Army Air Corps at the outbreak of WW II.

"His death occurred during the final weeks of bomber formation, flying at Lubbock Field in Texas. In that he volunteered his life for the safety of his crew and civilians on the ground below has impressed me as being exceptionally heroic. While flying in tight formation, the bomber next to the plane Andrew was commanding hit an air pocket, and dropped out of formation, and when attempting to re-enter, struck the wing of Andrew's plane. Both planes were doomed to crash. The entire crew from the other plane bailed out and reached the ground safely. However, it was reported the plane itself hit a shop and killed several civilians. Andrew gave orders to his crew to bail out. They did so and survived. Andrew remained at the controls alone and attempted a landing. Unfortunately, the plane crash-landed on the airfield, killing its lone pilot instantly. His body was sent under guard back to his home town of Canton and buried with full military honors in the Canton Cemetery on a hill overlooking the golf course where he had served as a caddy during his younger years."

In February 1942 Andrew had enlisted in the Army Air Corps to earn his wings as a pilot and to be commissioned as a lieutenant. Before leaving Canton, he was given a going-away party and presented with a purse of money and a fine traveling bag by his family and friends.

He reported for duty at Kelly Field in Texas in March and continued his instruction at Randolph Field, also in Texas.

By mid-summer, he was at the Lubbock Flying School for his final training to get his Silver Wings and Gold Lieutenant bars.

On August 23, 1942 — three days before his fatal accident — he wrote to his mother about formation flying: "I have soloed both the A.T.9 and the A.T.17. I have about ten hours in each. I flew formation yesterday. It is a lot of fun with my instructor. He sails over, under, around and through the clouds. We have to follow him. He likes to fly Luffberry circles and then tighten them up till he gets on your tail. Yesterday he tried it with me; my ship must have been just as fast as his because he couldn't make it. Our formations are the same as we had at Randolph: three ships in a V and then go from that into echelon and sail off. Later we will have six ship formations and on up."

The fatal accident of August 26 killed seven persons in all, including a civilian working at the post tailor shop. Andrew's survivors at the time of his death, in addition to his parents and his still living siblings as mentioned in Douglas' letter, included his brother James and sister Jeannie.

Andrew's body came home with a guard of honor, and his funeral was held on September 10, 1942 with full military honors at the Universalist Church in Stoughton: Two days before his parents received his commission as a lieutenant."

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There will be a memorial sign dedicated to Lieutenant Andrew Ross Wood, Jr., and his friend Private First Class Harris P. Tracy at the Route 138 end of Tracy Wood Road on September 18, 2002 at 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1, 1940

IRST OF CANTON MEN LISTED FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE DRAFT

ber	Name	Address	Serial No.
85	Fosdick Potter Harrison,	129 Chapman	2451
89	Charles Francis Leary,	59 Beaumont	2698
95	Eugene Williams,	92 Pleasant	2764
46	Herbert Kinsley Draper Jr.,	683 Pleasant	2489
03	Michael Louis Bertiletti,	57 Jackson	57
11	Lawrence Percy Clews,	66 Fuller	153
56	Arthur Julius Erickson,	435 Walpole	2880
60	Arthur Edward Tordoff,	63 Pond	2559
92	Frank Samuel Jackson,	37 Sassamon	2922
26	Joseph Henry Nenart,	202 Neponset	162
36	Walter Scott Draper,	38 Spring Lane	2484
01	Harry Schofield,	15 Beaumont	1355
02	Henry Philip Robinson,	39 Wall	2510
11	Neil Christopher Nelson,	5 Church	2638
80	Henry Francis Russell,	138 Bailey	1284
01	Jose Macedo Silva,	498 Washington	156
37	Benjamin Harrison Brightman,	37 Chapman	2875
97	Arthur Wentworth Dean,	348 Pleasant	108
99	Clifford Robert Mayo,	5 Lincoln	2545
47	William John Thompson, M.D.,	474 Washington	2731
96	Lawrence Raymond Brigham,	66 Fuller	2586
37	Thomas Fling Draper,	199 Chapman	109
41	Robert Joseph Lutkus,	651 Washington	2703
48	Richard Henry Gardner,	1041 Pleasant	184
48	Carl Leverett Cooke,	Grand	116
59	Ralph Freeman Davis,	408 Pleasant	2726
68	Henry Curtis Crossman,	20 Sumner	1801
043	Robert Francis Danahy,	Draper	2685
108	Joseph Benedict Riley,	318 High	142
127	James Tracy Parker,	138 Mechanic	2724
138	Ernest David Malcolmson,	47 Bolivar	2601
156	John Joseph Dromey,	1026 Pleasant	188
164	Earle Alexander Paton,	220 Bolivar	1873
225	Reginald William Harris,	40 Randolph	2723
240	William Sumner Witt,	25 Prospect	3018
250	George William Zachorne,	Blue Hill	198
297	William Martin Croak,	96 Bolivar	6
315	William Henry Parker,	25 Highland	122
341	Henry Chandler Lane,	90 Independence	2872
392	Edward Saville Hawes,	210 Sherman	2725
405	Joseph George Galligan,	1049 Washington	3043
413	John Lucarelli,	64 High	1368
481	Patrick Henry Nardelli,	16 Howard	1905
467	Leo Earle Cooper,	137 Bolivar	1950
468	John Henry Cleveland,	831 Washington	2778
534	Theodore Francis Maggelet,	122 Mechanic	2578
579	Edward Harmon Bolster,	54 Lewis	660
582	Alec Ag Philopoulos,	Turnpike	2942
706	Charles Cirello,	54 Ames avenue	702
743	Joseph Grady Martin,	13 Lincoln	86
744	Joseph Anthony Lane,	43 Van Buren	2956
762	John Ames Bright,	62 Chapman	136
803	Gerald Duffy Hallett,	326 Bolivar	612
809	George Joseph Dupuil,	141 Bolivar	231
818	Robert Linwood Tinkham,	2280 Washington	2483
825	James Everett Caniff,	165 Rockland	196
844	Herbert Sanborn Sawyer,	1178 Washington	21
862	Francis John Fama,	88 Mechanic	165
875	George Joseph Galvin,	42 Messinger	747
880	Henry Alfred Ewald Johnson,	32 Sherman Avenue	2912
893	John Joseph Cooley,	135 Bolivar	79

National Census Sets Population of Canton at 6,314

The population of Canton has fallen off 191 from the State census of 1935, according to the Federal census of this year, in figures recently released. In 1935, when the Massachusetts census was taken Canton had a population of 6505. The new Federal census puts the figure at 6314. The Federal census of 1930 gave Canton a population of 5816; this would give the town a gain of 498 persons in the ten-year period.

This is the third time in the history of the town that a census has shown a drop from the figures in a previous census. The first drop occurred in 1820, when the population decreased 105 from the census of the previous ten years. The second occurred in 1930 when the population dropped 22.

This drop is somewhat of a surprise to those acquainted with the building conditions in the town. Canton has probably built as many new houses in the past five years as any of the surrounding towns.

According to the figures the greatest gain in Canton's population was made between 1910 and 1920.

The following are the Federal census figures for Canton since 1800:

1800	1,110
1810	1,353
1820	1,268
1830	1,515
1840	1,995
1850	2,598
1860	3,242
1870	3,879
1880	4,516
1890	4,538
1900	4,584
1910	4,797
1920	5,945
1930	5,816
*1935	6,505
1940	6,314

* State Census.

The town of Canton was established February 23, 1797, from part of Stoughton. Part of Canton was annexed to Stoughton on March 31, 1847.

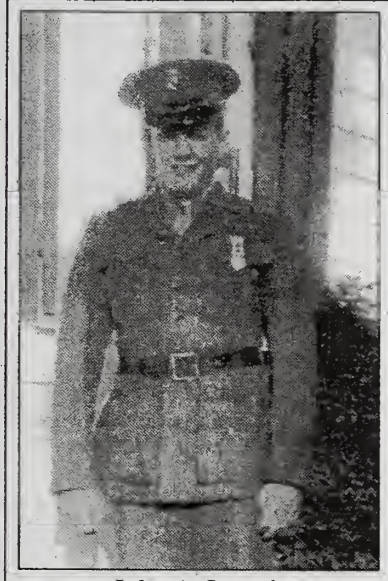
Photo by John Wagner.

John J. Podgurski, First to Register, Receives Card from Town Clerk Daniel J. Flood, Head of Local Registration Board.

737 Men Registered in Selective Service Draft Held Here Wednesday

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* John A. Lawrie

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*



John A. Lawrie

If Norman Rockwell had known the Lawrie family, he certainly would have commissioned each member for his paintings and illustrations.

The Lawrie clan represented the unmistakable mood and themes of that renowned American painter. Robert F. McDonald wrote that "Norman Rockwell painted the good that is universal in mankind: humor, humility, loyalty, compassion for others, pride in country, and love of family."

Anyone who has known Lawrie family members instantly recognizes those admirable qualities in them.

John and Helen Jardin Lawrie immigrated to America from Scotland in 1906 with their 2-year-old son, also named John. For many years they lived on Chapman Street, until they constructed a new home on Dedham Road.

The genealogy is somewhat faded; the family name, however, is famous in Scotland, particularly in the area of Newmilns, Ayrshire, where cotton weaving was introduced and prospered at the end of the 18th century. Possibly transferable skills in the textile trades attracted John Lawrie to Canton, where he became a lifelong employee at Draper Brothers. When his own son, John, entered the work force, he too joined the ranks at Drapers.

John, the younger, married Margaret O'Connor of Dedham. They settled on Draper Lane, where they intended to raise their family of four boys. Their first son naturally was named John. He arrived on December 2, 1923. Brothers Robert J., Charles and Leonard also were born during the 1920s at the Draper Lane home.

On March 23, 1932, John Lawrie died unexpectedly; he was only 28. Margaret Lawrie was left with the solitary task of raising four young sons during the worst economic depression in American history. She too began a working career of 30 years at Draper Brothers. Her son, Charles, retired from there after 50 years of service. Robert became a Norwood detective and Leonard a Plymouth Rubber Company supervisor.

Successively, the four boys attended grammar school at the nearby Eliot School. The four-classroom structure housed all eight grades. One teacher per room simultaneously instructing two grades presented its challenges for both teacher and pupils. This arrangement existed at the Crane and Revere schools as well. Not until 1941 did Canton convert to one class per room.

At age 14. John was helping to support the family. Brothers Robert, Charles and Leonard also contributed through summer jobs as soon as they became teenagers. Len Lawrie recalls that his brother, John, would rise at dawn every morning and walk to the Draper Farm on Pleasant Street. Today, residents refer to this property as Pequitside. His early morning task prior to attending school was to milk the cows, a chore that he repeated in the late afternoon. John continued this demanding routine during his high school years at Norfolk Agricultural School in Walpole.

It is noteworthy that farming at the time still retained some prominence in this area, particularly dairy, poultry and hog farming. The Grange, 4-H and Norfolk Aggie were institutions in those days. (Now, very few youngsters could identify any of them.)

Life, however, was not all work and no play. During those youthful years John had many friends. He spent much time with Paul and Ray Alexander at the farm and with another chum, Fran Sweeney.

At age 19, in March 1943, John Lawrie received his draft call. (His brothers eventually received theirs as well. Robert served in the Navy, while Charles and Leonard were in the Army). John was inducted into the Marine Corps and sent to Paris Island for training. His first assignment was at the Marine Barracks in San Diego, California. This was followed by a stop at Camp Elliot, California. The 3rd Marine Division had been activated there in September 1942. It was built around the 9th Marines (Regiment), commanded by Colonel

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., who years later became the 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

John shipped out in September 1943 and joined up with the 3rd Division at its base in Auckland, New Zealand. John Lawrie fought in the Bougainville Campaign. From there, the division returned to its new base at Guadacanal for further training.

On July 21, 1944, as part of an invasion force, the 3rd Marine Division made its assault on Guam at Tumon Beach at the north end of the island while the 77th Army Division invaded the southern end at Agat Bay. Recapture of this vital American island held a particular meaning to the nation, since Guam had been the first American soil lost to the Japanese in WWII. The enemy forces had prepared formidable defenses that made the task of dislodging them extremely difficult and costly. Two days into the battle, PFC. John A. Lawrie was killed in action.

He was buried at a temporary site on Guam. William H. Kelleher, Jr., Canton native and former demolition man in the Navy, also participated in that invasion. He visited John's temporary resting place and recalls that Carlton Titus, USMC, did the same. Two other Canton Navy men, Dom DeMayo and Renzo Piana later were stationed on the island. They wrote home that they had paid their respects at John's gravesite on Guam.

At the conclusion of the Pacific War, Pfc. John Lawrie was moved to his permanent resting-place in Hawaii. He was reburied in Section F, Grave 418 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, which is known as the "Punchbowl." Punchbowl of Puowaina means "Hill of Sacrifice." It is located in a crater of an extinct volcano. The cemetery was dedicated in September 1949. This beautiful site covers 112 acres and contains more than 35,000 honored dead.

In the post-war years, Robert Lawrie made the pilgrimage to his brother's final resting-place. Many Canton residents have visited this national shrine and many more will do so. In the future, with knowledge of the exact location, hopefully they will pay their respects to Pfc. John A. Lawrie at the Punchbowl.

He sacrificed his life at the age of 21, yet his spirit can still be seen and felt in those Rockwell paintings depicting "humility, loyalty, compassion, pride in country and love of family."

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Pfc. John A. Lawrie epitomized the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

His Fallen Hero sign dedication will take place on July 3, 2002 at the corner of Dedham and Washington Street.

Town to honor fallen hero Sgt. Michael J. Callanan

Michael Callanan was one of four brothers and three sisters in the family of Nora and William Callanan. He was born in South Boston on March 23, 1923 and lived there until 1919 when his family moved to Canton where his father got a job at the Sweetland Waste Company. The family lived in an apartment at 701 Washington Street over Moro's Market, which was on the first floor. The building was recently demolished as part of Canton's downtown economic development district.

Michael went to school across the street at St. John's, where he transferred as a second grader in the fall of 1929. His entire education would be at the school, as he went through its grammar and three-year high school to graduate in the class of 1937, one year after his father's death.

Jobs were scarce in those Depression days, but Michael engaged in various livelihoods to help his family. He worked at the A& P store on Washington Street, built forms for the Schofield Brothers on Dedham Street, and — before entering military service — was employed, like many other Canton boys, at the Fore River Ship Yard.

He was a handsome chap with an infectious smile.

Photo courtesy of James Callanan

Sgt. Michael J. Callanan

His kid brother, Jim, recalls him "as just a great big brother; one could not ask for a better one." He had a fine head of luxuriant dark hair, and was one of those persons affectionately called "Black Irish." One of his close friends was George Bucci, and he and George thought nothing of walking the couple of miles between their homes. In 1919 Michael also helped his eldest brother, Joe, build a home on West Street in Stoughton, in an area that in time would have several Callanan residences.

Michael was inducted into the Army on April 11, 1943 in Dedham and wound up in the Army Air Corps. He did his basic training in Miami Beach, followed by advanced courses at Keebler Field, Mississippi, Laredo Field at Laredo, Texas, the Army Air

Base at Salt Lake City, the Davis-Monathan Air Base in Tucson and the Air Field in Topeka, Kansas. He received instruction as an aircraft mechanic and later as a gunner. He received his wings in February 1944, was appointed a Sergeant, and assigned to the 451st Bomber Group and the 724th Bomber Squadron in the famous 15th Air Force. He was trained as a nose gunner on a B24, and by June 1944 he was flying missions out of an Italian base.

His letters home were always cheerful and uncomplaining, and he constantly exhorted his mother not to worry about him. On August 3, 1944 — three weeks before his death — he wrote: "I got twenty letters today, and I just finished reading them. I also got two letters returned by the censors."

The bombing runs by the B24s had a much higher risk rate than the American public knew at the time. The German anti-aircraft fire with their fine-tuned proximity fuses often meant that our aircraft were traveling on a carpet of destruction. From Michael's base in Italy, he would go on bombing runs over Germany, Austria, Hungary and Rumania. He was the recipient of the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." By late August of 1944, Michael had had over 20 missions, and he and his family hoped he would soon have a respite from danger.

On August 23 on a bombing run over Germany, his plane was so badly damaged from hits that the order was given to the crew to bail out. All the men parachuted to safety, but three airmen, including Michael, were shot to death on the ground.

He was reported as "missing in action" in September, and his family hoped and prayed that he was a prisoner of war. It was not until February 1945 that word came from the War Department that he had been killed. The 20-year-old airman was survived by his mother, three sisters, Mrs. Mary Horgan, and Misses Ann and Catherine, and three brothers, Joseph, James and William. His family was informed that he had also been awarded two Purple Hearts and the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with silver and bronze clusters. He was also the recipient of a Presidential Unit Citation with bronze cluster.

Michael's body came home for burial four years after his death and arrived on August 26, 1948. By then, most of his family were living in Stoughton, and his wake was held in his brother Joseph's home — the one Michael had helped to build before going into the service. The funeral mass was held here at St. John's and was celebrated by Father Robert E. Lee, assisted by Fathers John Cosgrove and Joseph Deacon.

Michael's body was escorted by the Stoughton Police under Chief Peter McGarry to the Canton town line where it was met by the Canton Selectmen Carleton Taber, Maurice Ronayne and John Howard plus American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars members who accompanied it to the church, with the Air Force providing a color guard. The pallbearers were Frank Raggani, Joseph Storme, Thomas Dockray, Joseph Mazzarini, Renzo Piana, and James Brown. Charles Lane, Joseph Pocaro, Rex Lewis, John Cushman, and William Parsons comprised the color detail. Albert Powers was the Sergeant at Arms. After the mass, the cortege proceeded to Michael's burial site in St. Mary's cemetery.

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A memorial sign honoring Sergeant Michael J. Callanan will be dedicated at the corner of Centre and Washington Streets on Wednesday, April 17 at 2 p.m.

Funeral honor guard pays respects *'on behalf of a grateful nation'*

By Kathy Anderson
Citizen staff

They don't do it for the glory or the publicity.

In fact, they're quite modest about it.

The Canton Funeral Honor Guard is a group of a dozen veterans who gather to pay respects to their fellow veterans at the time of death. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of "Taps." The honor guard assembles for burials in full military dress at Canton cemeteries – or if the burial is out of town, at the local funeral home or local house of worship.

Canton Veterans' Agent Tony Andreotti started the tradition when he assumed his post two years ago.

"Before I became Veterans' Agent, I attended the funeral of a friend of mine in Dedham," he said. "This friend was also a veteran. When I saw the military representative toss the flag to the next of kin I was appalled. So when I got this position, I decided

(continued on page 6)

(Front l-r) Paul Cash, Bob DeYeso, Cal Calbani, Dom Duganiero, Bob Pesaturo, Edward Trunfio, Tony Andreotti. (Back l-r) George Sykes, Tom Jenkins, Frank LaBolita, Jack O'Neil, George Berteletti, Edward Lehan, Edward Piana.

2002

hat I would attend veterans' funerals nd present the flag myself — with ignity."

Andreotti said when he was asked y a Canton family to have a military ervice in full Marine dress, he rought along Paul Cash. "I knew he ad a uniform because he marches in ach and every Memorial Day arade," he said. "After that, I ecruited a few more fellows and took em to buy uniforms if they didn't ave one. It spread from there."

Andreotti said the families' actions were so positive, more terans joined the honor guard.

"We started to improve the remonies by playing a CD with aps' and draping the flag over the sket," he said. "We'd fold the flag d then present it to the next of kin. ow we have both the American flag and the flag of whatever branch of service the departed veteran served in. It's very moving and probably the only uplifting part of the mourning process. The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful nation can provide to the veterans' families."

Military Funeral Honors are provided at no cost to the family, Andreotti said, noting that the honor guard does need at least 24 to 48 hours notice.

"Both of the funeral directors in town will call me if they have a veteran's funeral to prepare," he said. "And [veteran] George Sykes is my obituary reader. He'll call me if he sees an obituary for a veteran and then we can get in touch with the funeral home to make arrangements to be there."

Cash, a veteran of World War II, said serving on the guard is his duty.

"It's an honor to share the grief and the burden with the family," he said. "We know that this man served his country and risked his life to defend it, but we can also comfort the family and let them know that their loved one will not be forgotten. It's not about publicity or getting your picture in the paper. It's our duty to put our best foot forward, be spit and polish and pay the departed the respect that they deserve."

Bob DeYeso, also a veteran of World War II, agreed with Cash.

"I'm not doing it for myself," DeYeso said. "I don't want to be center stage; the people who've died are more important than I am. But to give a little something to those veterans who died and their families means so much to me. When I see the look on the faces of the widows and children I feel so proud to do this. It isn't for the glory; it's about being there and making people feel better."

Veterans from any era are encouraged to volunteer their services by joining the Funeral Honor Guard. Andreotti said he is also hoping to recruit a bugler to play "Taps" at services.

"It doesn't matter whether the deceased veteran served in combat or peacetime," Andreotti said. "It has no bearing on the ceremony."

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Canton's Military Funeral Honors can be arranged through your funeral director or by calling Canton's Dept. of Veterans' Services at 781-821-5005.

WW II ROSTER
CANTON SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

Abely, Thomas E., 12 Ponkapoag Way
Abernathy, George C. Jr.
233 Chapman st.
Abramowitz, Edward, 16 Lewis street
Abramowitz, Leonard, 16 Lewis st.
Abromosky, James W., 17 Capen Pl.
Adair, Willis A., 988 Pleasant street
Adams, Arthur E., Randolph street
Adams, James, 43 Sherman Ave.
Adams, John J., 43 Sherman Ave.
Adams, Joseph H., 43 Sherman ave.
Adams, William S., 43 Sherman ave.
Adams, Winslow E., 26 Mechanic st.
Ahern, Timothy J., 48 Revere street
Aldrich, Leon R., 2391 Washington st.
Alexander, Harry E., 93 Pleasant st.
Alexander, Leverett, 93 Pleasant st.
Alexander, Paul H., 93 Pleasant st.
Alexander, Raymond, 93 Pleasant st.
Allen, Edward H., 16 High st.
Alsop, William F., 17 Van Buren st.
Anagnoston, Daniel N., 21 Howard st.
Anagnoston, George N., 21 Howard st.
Anderson, Edward R. 515 Chapman st.
Anderson, G. E., 235 Sherman street
Anderson, J. Holtman, 515 Chapman
Angus, George, 72 Indian Lane
Armando, Anthony H., 78 Revere st.
Armando, David, Morton street
Armando, Lawrence, 78 Revere st.
Armstrong, Robert E., 144 Sherman st.
Avery, John C., 1 Draper street
Aylward, Guy L. Jr., Farm st.

Baczek, Benjamin A., 36 Maple st.
Bailey, James R., 35 Endicott st.
Baker, Earl C., Elm street
Baker, Paul A., Oak road
Baker, William R., 26 Savin Hill st.
Barbaglia, Chano J., 56 Ames ave.
Barbaglia, Guerrino, 56 Ames ave.
Barbaglia, Robert J., 56 Ames ave.
Barnes, Alfred J., 442 Sherman street
Barss, Charles A., 70 Mechanic st.
Batchelder, Richard D., 431 Bolivar st.
Batchelder, Nelson D., 431 Bolivar st.
Beatty, Arthur V., formerly Wall st.
Beatty, George C.
Behrakis, Charles E., 613 Wash. st.
Behrakis, James, Washington street
Bentham, David E., York st.
Berardi, Daniel J., 38 Mechanic street
Berardi, Gino, 38 Mechanic st.
Berry, Ivan, 26 Howard st.
Bertiletti, George E., 277 Norfolk st.
Bertiletti, Peter A., 57 Jackson st.
Berteletti, Ugo J., 47 Church st.
Bertoni, Giovanni C., 172A Nepon. st.
Billings, Donald A., 476 Wash. st.
Bissell, Grace E., 2020 Wash. st.
Bissell, Roger W. 2020 Wash. st.
Bitetti, Cosmo D., 34 Rockland st.
Bitetti, Saverio F., 34 Rockland street
Black, Philip F., 26 Traverse st.
Blair, Max, 283 Sherman street
Bleiken, Gerhard D., 433 Neponset st.
Bohl, George F., 38 Spring Lane
Boles, Dr. Herbert F., 577 Wash'n st.
Botsch, Frederick Wm., 48 Bolivar st.
Bougas, Charles J., 705 Wash. st.
Bougas, Ernest J., 705 Washington st.
Bougas, Nick J. Mechanic st.
Borroni, Aldo M., 206 Neponset st.
Borroni, Francis P., 206 Neponset st.
Bowen, Thomas J., 48 Revere street
Bowers, Kenneth L., 1657 Wash'n st.
Bowman, Richard P., Leigh rd.
Briggs, James T., 627 Pleasant st.
Briggs, Ralph E., Jr., Spring Lane
Bright, John A., 62 Chapman street
Bright, William H., Chapman st.
Brightman, Benjamin, 37 Chapman st.
Broderick, John B., 45 Pond street
Brown, Augustine E., 26 Maple st.
Brown, Edward, 27 Howard street
Brown, Frank J., Jr., 25 Pond st.
Brown, James A., 25 Pond st.
Brown, James F., Jr., 4 Ames ave.
Brown, Stanley T., 39 Wall street
Brown, Walter F., 39 Wall street
Bruno, Jordan F., 90 Machanic st.
Bryan, Charles E., 289 Sherman st.
Bryant, Ernest R., 64 High st.
Bucci, Walter L., 147 Washington st.
Buckley, Frederick J. Jr. 270 Wash. st.
Buckley, Joseph D., 469 Pleasant st.
Buckley, Joseph T., 270 Wash. st.
Buckley, Paul E., 16 Tolman st.
Buckley, Raymond G., 469 Pleasant st.
Buckley, William M., 270 Wash. st.
Bullock, George W., 462 Wash. st.
Burgun, James A., 37 Chapel st.
Burke, Gerard F., Hubbard st.
Burt, W. Lincoln Jr., 1457 Wash. st.
Buteau, Robert J., 170 Mechanic st.
Buttrick, George J., 5 Valley st.

Caddigan, Donald G., 355 Chapman st.
Caddigan, John J., 35 Endicott st.
Caddigan, Margaret Irene,
355 Chapman st.
Caddigan, Robert A., 355 Chapman st.
Caddigan, Walter A., 355 Chapman st.
Cahill, Lewis R., 57 Church street
Callahan, Joseph H. 23 Prospect st.
Callan, Desmond, Green st.
Callanan, William E., 701 Wash. st.
Callery, Dr. Charles P., 81 High st.
Callery, Edward C., 81 High street
Cametti, Ermes, 344 Neponset st.
Canty, Charles A., 21 Ponkapoag Way
Capen, Janet, 1403 Washington st.
Caponio, Joseph F., 27 Howard street
Caramatti, Louis, 156 Walpole street
Cardarelli, Dominic J., 14 Cross st.
Carrara, Ernest D., 2 Traverse st.
Cardarelli, Feruchee F., 14 Cross st.
Carpenter, Francis W. Jr. 38 Lewis st.
Carroll, Edmund B., 20 Hartwell pl.
Carroll, Elinor Frances, 375 Pleasant
Carroll, James, 10 Pierce Place.
Carroll, James W.
Carroll, John F. Jr., 375 Pleasant st.
Casey, William F., 1 Revere street
Cash, Paul F., 1026 Pleasant st.
Cazzola, Joel, 45 Highland street
Chappas, Stanley, 556 Washington st.
Chase, Edward L., 480 Sherman st.
Chase, Francis M., 480 Sherman st.
Chauve, Louis E. M., 363 Chapman st.
Chute, George B., Irving street
Clayton, Lawrence L., 1410 Wash'n st.
Clayton, L. L. Jr., 1410 Wash. st.
Clerke, Earl E. 41 Randolph street
Cleveland, George G., 831 Wash. st.
Cleveland, John, 1063 Wash. street
Clews, Lawrence P., 66 Fuller street
Clinger, Joseph A., 130 Mechanic st.
Clinton, Stephen J., Royall street
Cobb, Donald B., 51 Beaumont street
Coffin, Robert S., 19 Chapman st.
Coghlan, Edward V., 90 Lawrence st.
Cohen, Edward M., 8 Royall street
Cohen, Paul T., 8 Royall st.
Cohen, Robert J., 170 High st.
Collins, John, formerly of Bolivar st.
Collins, William J., 197 Revere st.
Colsen, Donald P., 194 Lawrence st.
Colsen, Russell H., 194 Lawrence st.
Conlon, Arthur J., 238 Washington st.
Conlin, J. Burton, 609 Chapman st.
Conlon, John M., 238 Washington st.
Conlon, Joseph E., 238 Washington st.
Converse, Hollis G., 371 Wash'gton st.
Converse, John D., 371 Sherman St.
Converse, Marjorie, 371 Wash. st.
Converse, William Jr., 35 Grand st.
Connolly, James E., 42 Wash. st.
Connor, Robert C. 1138 Pleasant st.
Cook, Chester A., 58 Walnut st.
Cooke, Carl L., 217 Bay road
Coolidge, John P. 3rd, Green st.
Coolidge, Paul C., Green street
Cooper, Donald, 22 Mechanic st.
Cooper, Edward, 222 Mechanic st.
Cooper, Dr. Leo E., 135 Bolivar st.
Copeland, Everett L., 1290 Wash. st.
Copley, Helen M., 366 Washington st.
Copley, John R., 366 Washington st.
Corey, Roger, Turnpike st.
Correia, Charles F., 68 Mechanic st.
Correia, John E., 68 Mechanic st.
Cote, Raymond, 2038 Washington st.
Cotter, Francis P., 152 Rockland st.
Coveney, Charles E., 13 Bolivar street
Crane, Raymond, 81 South street
Crisileo, Ettore E., 355 Walpole st.
Croak, James F., 96 Bolivar street
Croak, William M., 96 Bolivar street
Croft, Clarence D. Jr., 184 Messinger
Croft, Roy, 138 Mechanic st.
Croft, Thomas W., 245 Wash. st.
Crossman, Daniel A., 20 Sumner st.
Crowd, Alfred Jr., 71 Pond st.
Crowley, Florence D. Jr. 18 Walnut st.
Crowley, James J., 45 Endicott st.
Crowley, James T., 106 Traverse st.
Crowley, Joseph D., 574 Wash. st.
Curll, Robert D., 30 Ponkapoag Way
Curtis, Clinton M., 288 Sherman st.
Curtis, Eleanor, Turnpike street
Curtis, Robert P., 288 Sherman st.
Curtis, Wm. F. Jr., 288 Sherman st.
Cushman, John W., 793 Wash. st.

d'Entremont, Earl J., 28 Ponk. Way
D'Amico, Evelyn R., 19 Mechanic st.
D'Attanasio, Albert W., 40 Pequit st.
Dagworthy, John H., Washington st.
Dallahan, Robert V., Endicott st.
Daly, William E., 419 Neponset st.
Dana, Elmer G., 29 Walnut street
Danahy, James E., Draper street
Danahy, Joseph P. Jr., 1077 Wash. st.

Danahy, M. Francis, 485 Neponset st.
Danahy, John F., 9 Cross st.
Danahy, Joseph P., 9 Cross st.
Danahy, Paul A., 1077 Washington st.
Danahy, Robert F., 29 Rockland st.
Danovitch, Joseph M., 48 Tolman st.
Dardano, Albert P., Grand st.
Dardano, Robert L., Grand street.
Davis, Stanley W., Revere ct.
Dawson, Victor C. D., 7 Sutcliffe ave.
Decembrile, Augustine S., 99 Leonard
Dechane, Thomas M., Indian Lane
DeMayo, Michael T., Endicott st.
Demayo, Dominic, Pequit street
DePalma, Anthony, 1752 Wash. st.
Dewar, John M., 190 Rockland st.
Dewar, Thomas P. Jr., 190 Rockland
Deyarmond, Allen E., 32 Sher. ave.
Di Biasio, Vincent, 124 Walpole st.
Dickie, Henry S., 633 Chapman st.
Dickie, Raymond S., 633 Chapman st.
Digiralamo, Damian, 57 Mechanic st.
Dings, Hollis L., 1823 Washington st.
Distefano, Dominic, 169 Mechanic st.
Dockray, Edward W., 26 Highland st.
Dockray, Thomas J. Jr., 26 Highland
Dodge, Parker B., 2366 Washington st.
Dodge, Robert S., 2366 Washington st.
Dominic, John J., 438 Neponset st.
Donahue, Edwin B., 42 Pequit st.
Doody, Michael J., 84 High street
Doody, Paul V., 943 Washington st.
Dow, Ernest, Washington st.
Dowd, Paul L., 1390 Washington st.
Draper, Charles D., 1422 Wash. st.
Draper, Donald P., 79 Pleasant st.
Draper, James B., Jr., Elm street
Draper, Thomas F., 199 Chapman st.
Draper, Walter S., 38 Spring Lane
Drew, Priscilla L., Randolph street
Dromey, John J., 42 Messinger st.
Dromey, William C., 42 Messinger st.
Dudley, Charles J., 541 Washington st.
Duff, A. Murray, 2200 Washington st.
Duggan, Edward M., 103 Rockland st.
Dupill, George J., 143 Bolivar street
Durgin, Alethea G. 28 Ponkapoag way
Durgin, Franklin U., 28 Ponk'g Way
Durham, Robert J., 283 Revere st.
Dunn, Cletus J., 18 Chapel st.
Dwyer, Sylvester J., 2150 Wash. st.

Eagles, David H., 50 York st.
Eagles, Robert A. York street
Eardley, Arnold G., 32 Eliot street
Eardley, Elgin E., 32 Eliot street
Eardley, George E., 32 Eliot street
Edelman, Philip C., Indian Lane
Eisenhaur, Vincent A., 36 Ponk. Way
Eisenhaur, Wm. G., 36 Ponkapoag way
Erickson, Arthur J., 435 Walpole st.
Ervin, Calvin I. 67 Independence st.
Estey, Charles H., 1314 Pleasant st.
Estey, Edward A., 19 Pine street
Estey, William H., 19 Pine st.

Eveline, George A., 92 Mechanic st.

Fallon, Bernard P., 45 Mechanic st.
Falls, James M., 248 Mechanic street
Falls, Robert A. 248 Mechanic street
Fama, Francis J.
Fama, Frank A., 92 Lawrence st.
Fama, Joseph, 88 Mechanic street
Fama, Philip N., 92 Lawrence st.
Faretra, Anthony P., 541 Wash. st.
Farrell, Elizabeth, 137 Norfolk st.
Farrell, Elwyn T., Traverse place
Farrell, James J., 359 Washington
Farrington, James E., 82 Neponset
Farrington, John E., 2555 Wash. st.
Farrington, John W., Sassamon st.
Farrow, Richard G., 1631 Wash. s
Farwell, Leonard B., 95 Messinger
Feldman, Irving, 217 Rockland str
Ferguson, Malcolm D., 2378 Wash.
Fiello, Nicola, 34 Pequit street
Finn, Charles Leo, 225 High street
Finn, Thomas F., 16 Walnut st.
Fish, John E. Jr., Elm st.
Fish, Robert S., 1187 Wash'n st.
Fisher, Albert L., Sassamon street
Fisher, Ernest B., Sassamon street
Fisher, William C., 2068 Wash. st.
Fitzgerald, Arthur W., 818 Wash. s
Fitzgerald, John F., 110 High str
Fitzgerald, Richard Joseph, 110 H
Flaherty, Edward J. Glen road
Flamin, John A. Jr., 9 Lincoln st.
Flanagan, Eugene G., 66 Rockland
Flanagan, Leo F. Jr., 66 Rockland
Fletcher, Albion R., Turnpike st.
Flint, Richard H., 19 Kinsley Pla
Flynn, James F., 31 Savin Hill st.
Flynn. Peter M., 31 Savin Hill st.
Foley, Robert F., 473 Washington
Ford, Charles W., 917 Washington
Foss, A. Channing, 15 Messinger st
Fowler, Frances M., 11 Lewis st.
Fraccalierie, Helen, 106 Norfolk st.
Fralick, Robert L., 1294 Wash. st.
Fralick, Roland F., 6 Meyer Terrac
Franco, Carmino A., 21 Bolivar st.
Fraser, James L., 291 Washington
Freiday, Lewis L., 84 High st.
French, Henry, 2200 Washington st
French, Wellington A., 99 Spring la
Fuller, Josiah, 57 Tolman st.

Gage, Charles K., 4 Washington st.
Galvin, Francis X., 28 Chapel stre
Gallant, John B., 136 Sherman st.
Galligan, Charles J., 1049 Wash. st.
Galligan, Edward B., 151 High st.
Galligan, Joseph J., Jr. 1049 Wash.
Galligan, Leo J. Jr., 151 High stre
Galligan, Paul H., 468 Neponset st.
Garcia, Francis
Gardner, Richard H.
Garnhum, Charles W., 1201 Pleasa
Garnhum, Daniel P., 1201 Pleasant s
Garnhum, George R., 39 Fuller st.
Garnhum, John, 1201 Pleasant stree
Gavigan, Albert H., 98 Mechanic st.
Gavigan, Joseph L., 21 Hartwell pl.
Gecewicz, Joseph E., 38 Rockland st.
Gedden, Ivan E., Oak road
Gelpke, Paul F., 482 Pleasant st.
Gelpke, Roy F., 482 Pleasant st.
Gibbons, Robert L., 16 Everett stre
Gibney, John, 2180 Washington stre
Gibson, Alice C., 1757 Washington st.
Gibson, Charles F., 1755 Wash'n st.
Gibson, George A., 310 Elm st.
Gibson, Joseph, Kenney st.
Gibson, John H., 1757 Washington st.
Gibson, Robert C., 98 Kenney street
Gibson, Thomas A., 1757 Wash. st.
Gillett, Priscilla, 4 Draper street
Gillett, Ralph C., 4 Draper street
Gilligan, John, 227 Mechanic st.
Gomme, Edward S., 560 Wash. st.
Gorman, Philip J., 51 Eliot street
Goss, Raymond E., 347 Neponset st.
Grafton, Gerald W., 1931 Wash. st.
Graham, Donald J., 8 Hubbard st.
Graham, John J., 10 Pequit st.
Graham, Tom, 15 Church street
Grant, Cecil, Mass. Hospital School
Grant, William F. Jr., 251 Wash. st.
Gray, Robert L., 318 Sherman st.
Green, William W. formerly of Canton
Griffin, Thomas E., 2787 Wash. street
Griffin, Thomas M. 22 Leonard street
Grover, Charles E. Jr., 17 Kinsley pl.
Grover, Donald F., 17 Kinsley Place
Grover, Robert, 17 Kinsley Place
Grover, Thomas, 671 Washington st.
Grover, William A., 671 Wash. st.
Gudaitis, Joseph, 134 Mechanic st.
Guerrin, Dorothy, 1291 Pleasant st.

Hagan, Albert J., 109 Mechanic st.
Hagan, John D., 109 Mechanic st.
Hagan, Dr. Newell S., 160 High st.
Hagan, Richard A., 154 Sherman St.
Hale, Ralph C., 443 Walpole street
Hall, Ralph E., Green Lodge street
Hallett, Gerald D., 326 Bolivar street
Hallett, Joseph W., 326 Bolivar st.
Hallett, Walter A., 326 Bolivar st.
Hannon, Albert W., 2062 Wash. st.
Hannon, James J., 469 Neponset st.
Hannon, Joseph A., 2062 Wash. st.
Hanson, Howard A., Sassamon st.
Harkins, Harold H., 260 Revere st.
Harrison, Burton, 145 Chapman st.
Haynes, Arthur R. Jr., Turnpike st.
Hays, Alfred, 13 Dedham street
Hays, Doris, Dedham street.
Hays, Edward, Dedham street
Hemenway, Augustus L., Green st.
Hemenway, John T., Green st.
Hendrickson, John T., 35 Rockland st.
Hennessey, Joseph J., 1395 Wash. st.
Hepworth, George R., 26 Eliot street
Hibbard, William G., 311 Sherman st.
Higgins, Donald A., Lake road
Hill, Francis T., 45 Sherman street
Hiltz, Leland R., 303 Revere street
Hiltz, Ralph N., 303 Revere St.
Hinchliffe, John J., 8 Pequit st.
Hinchliffe, Harry, 3 Meyer Terrace
Hinchliffe, Lester, 8 Pequit st.
Hinchliffe, Wilfred F., 8 Pequit street
Hinchliffe, William J., 8 Pequit street
Hinds, Roger H., 228 Sherman st.
Holliday, William R., 238 Neponset st
Holloway, Samuel W., 451 Wash. st.
Holmes, Henry F., 405 Washington st
Holmes, Wesley A., 405 Wash. st.
Holmes, Warren H., 405 Wash. st.
Holmes, Wesley C., 176 Wash. st.

Hewman, Henry P., 2561 Wash. st.
Hewman, Richard W., 2561 Wash. st.
Hewman, William P. Jr., 2561 Wash.
Heward, John L., 715 Pleasant st.
Hoey, Henry S., Blue Hill River rd.
Hoyda, Agnes V., Blue Hill st.

Hughes, Frank W., Royall st.
Hughes, Hobart, 219 Messinger st.
Huntsman, Nelson, York st.
Huntsman, Patricia F., York street
Huntsman, Warren H., York street

Igo, James J., 15 Beaumont street
Ioannilli, Angelo Jr., 190 Neponset st.
Irving, Andrew, 485 Bolivar st.

Januskis, Apalina, 651 Washington st.
Jenkins, Edward J., 32 Highland st.
Jenkins, George F., 236 Mechanic st.
Jenkins, John, 26 Highland st.
Jenkins, Kenneth R., 32 Highland st.
Jenkins, Russel F., 32 Highland st.
Jennison, Lillian H., 1209 Pleasant st.
Jennison, John W., 1209 Pleasant st.
Jones, George, 11 Pond st.
Jones, Robert R., 11 Pond street
Jones, Owen A., 11 Pond st.
Johnson, Andrew T., 68 Dunbar st.
Joy, Emil A., 183 Bolivar street

Kassell, Edwin M., Randolph st.
Keleher, John J., 30 Mechanic st.
Keefe, Charles F., 37 Ponkapoag Way
Keefe, John D. Jr., 37 Ponkapoag Way
Keefe, Robert F., 32 Eliot street
Kehoe, Frank J., 27 Maple st.
Kelle, Wilder E., Jr., 133 Rockland st.
Kelleher, Edward F., 189 Rockland st.
Kelleher, James J., 1159 Wash. st.
Kelleher, Jeremiah T., 238 Sherman st.
Kelleher, John P., 189 Rockland st.
Kelleher, Joseph F., 1159 Wash. st.
Kelleher, Paul E., 228 Rockland st.
Kelleher, William H., 189 Rockland st.
Kelley, Loren W., 52 Sherman st.
Kelley, Randall F., 101 Mechanic st.
Kelley, Walter B., 52 Sherman st.
Kelliher, John E., 84 Neponset st.
Kelliher, John J., 30 Mechanic st.
Kemp, Lysander S. Jr. Mass. Hos. Sch.
Kemp, Robert G., Randolph street
Kenefick, Albert R., 102 Mechanic st.
Kenefick, Francis M., 102 Mechanic st
Kenney, Storrus L. Jr.
Kerr, Wesley, 55 Mechanic st.
Kessler, Edward R., 95 Sherman st.
Kessler, Walter J., 95 Sherman st.

Knowlton, Thomas, Farm street
Knowlton, William C., 2 Farm street
Kreutel, Randall W., Grand street

LaBombard, Louis C., 119 Rockl'd st.
Landon, Ernest G., 392 Pleasant st.
Landon, Walter D., 392 Pleasant st.
Lane, Charles H. V., 43 Van Buren st.
Lane, Henry C., 90 Independence st.
Lane, John E., 43 Van Buren street
La Plante, Donald J., 360 Neponset st.
La Plant, Joseph M., Neponset st.
Latimer, Alden L., 115 Turnpike st.
Latimer, Ralph W., 115 Turnpike st.
Lawrie, Robert J., 54 Draper Lane
Leary, James E., 775 Pleasant st.
Leavitt, Eliot
Leeman, Albert, 539 Washington
Leggee, Robert W., 62 Messinger
Lehan, Florence J., 117 Mechanic
Lehan, Francis V., 117 Mechanic
Lelland, John, 41 Wall st.
Lentell, Benjamin R. Jr., York st.
Leonard, John V., 170 Sherman st
Leonard, Patrick, 170 Sherman st.
Lesniak, Michael W., 21 Bolivar
Levine, Saul A., 834 Pleasant stre
Lewis, Rex Q., 609 Chapman st.
Libby, Donald S., 1878 Washington
Libby, Paul H., 1878 Washington
Lombardi, Felix, Bolivar street
Lonergan, Richard V., 1325 Wash.
Love, Robert T., 55 Beaumont stre
Lowell, Paul V., Randolph st.
Lowry, Karl, 437 Washington st.
Lubienski, Paul J., 577 Wash. st.
Lull, Frederick F., 145 Mechanic
Lyman, Charles P., Elm street
Lyman, Henry, Jr., Elm street
Lynch, James P. Jr., 94 Rockland

MacGregor, W. Dal. 8 Ponkapoag w
Mackiernan, Douglas S. Jr., Turnpi
Mackiernan, Duncan W., Turnpike
Mackiernan, Malcolm W. Turnpike
Mackiernan, Stewart W., Turnpike
Mackness, Ernest, 11 Dedham st.
MacLeod, Norman, 14 Norfolk st.
MacLeod, Richard H., 14 Norfolk st.
Magee, Joseph W., Blue Hill street
Malcolmson, Gordon, 1026 Pleasant s
Malcolmson, Ralph, 14 Eliot st.
Malcolmson, Samuel E., 1026 Pleasan
Malcolmson, Stanley T. 477 Bolivar s
Mann, Benjamin Eliot, Elm street
Marinaro, Joseph V., 156 Mechanic s
Martin, Albert B., Randolph street
Martin, Edmund V., Randolph st.
Martin, Hugh D., Randolph st.
Martin, John D., 94 Tolman st.
Martin, Joseph G., 13 Lincoln stre
Martin, Nathaniel, 88 Kenney street
Martin, Peter G., 33 Randolph street
Martin, Theodore C., Turnpike stre
Martin, William A., Randolph st.
Masciarelli, Ralph A., 394 Neponset s
Mazzarini, Joseph M., 21 Mechanic s
Mazzone, Euro, 281 Neponset st.
McCarthy, Charles E., 427 Wash. st.
McCormick, Charles E., 147 High st.
McDougall, Albert B., 1015 Wash. s
McDermott, Dorothy A., 37 Bolivar s
McDermott, Edward J., 37 Bolivar s
McDermott, Francis W. form'y Cant
McDermott, Thos. E., 586B Wash. s
McDonnell, Sophie T., 2324 Wash. s
McDonough, William J., 2 Hubbard s
McDonnell, Robert F., 2324 Wash. s
McDonough, Thomas, 58 Rockland s
McEnaney, Robert F., 145 High st.
McGowan, Hugh J., 283 Sherman st.
McGuiggan, Thomas, 32 Center st.
McSorley, Charles B. X., 470 Wash. s
McSweeney, Edward F., 15 Kempley
Meadows, Joseph A. 19 Ward Well rd
Mears, James E., 170 Mechanic st.
Mendes, Alfred, 14 Capen Place
Meninno, Alexander D., 299 Wash'n s
Metropolis, John P., 196 Bailey st.
Miller, John C., 48 Highland street
Milligan, Wilbur E., 427 Walpole st.
Milligan, William B., Jr., 427 Walpol
Minichelli, Everett G., 398 Neponset
Missler, Robert, 6 Neponset street
Mitchell, Michael, 26 Revere street
Mitcheroney, Charles R., 122 Norfolk
Mitcheroney, Dominic M., 124 Norfolk
Moore, Joseph H., 19 Lawrence st.
Moore, James A., 19 Lawrence st.
Moore, William J., 178 Mechanic st.
Morgan, Clayton I., Elm st.
Morris, Alan E., 272 Washington st.
Morrison, Richard W., 262 Wash. st.
Morrissey, Robert M., 54 Cedar st.
Morrison, Samuel E., 2561 Wash. st.
Morse, Leland P., 67 Sherman st.
Morley, Rev. Francis J. 20 Leonard st.
Morley, William J., 20 Leonard st.
Morris, William, Indian Lane
Murphy, John J., York st.

Niederhauser, Violette, Morton st.
Niederhauser, Hans, Morton street
Nelson, Archie T., 56 Wall street
Nervi, Walter W., 250 Neponset st.
Nolen, Humphrey, 1378 Wash. st.
Noll, Gustav A., 291-A Washington st.
Nugent, Francis M., 548 Pine street
Nugent, Thomas [illegible] Pine street

O'Brien, Charles, 3 Ponkapoag Way
O'Brien, William C., 3 Ponkapoag w'y
O'Connell, Cornelius J., 31 Savin Hill
O'Connell, Edward W. C. 196 Lawr'ce
O'Connor, John F., 39 Fuller st.
Odell, Perley C., 238 Neponset st.
O'Hagen, William, 25 Highland st.
Olsen, John F., Jr., 16 Revere st.
O'Neil, Francis A., 226 Sherman st.
Orlowski, Charles H., 16 Howard st.
Orphanos, Anthony L., 123 Turn'e st.

Packard, David, 1442 Washington st.
Packard John Winthrop, 1442 Wash.
Palkins, Lewis F., 26 Howard st.
Parker, Joseph W., 408 Pleasant st.
Parker, William H. Jr., 25 Highland
Parsons, William H., 239 Wash'n st.
Patterson, John E., 31 Rockland st.
Patriarca, Ernest, 225 Neponset st.
Paul, Richard B., Spring Lane
Pavadore, Anthony P., Tucker Pl.
Pavidis, Anthony, 236 Washington st.
Payson, Donald, 280 Pleasant street
Payson, Kenneth A., 280 Pleasant st.
Peardon, Ralph J., 9 Ponkapoag Way
Pechonis, Steve V., 20 Page st.
Pendergast, William P., Oak Road
Pesaturo, Robert A., 709 Wash. st.
Peters, George A. Jr., 454 Bolivar st.
Peters, Robert L., 454 Bolivar st.
Pettingill, Alton H., 26 Ponkap'g Way

Phlibrick, Victor P., 89 Mechanic st.
Philbrick, Wesley V., 89 Mechanic st
Philopoulos, Angelo, 127 Turnpike st
Pierce, Ernest, 27 Howard st.
Piona, Charles, 521 Washington st.
Piana, Renzo, 221 Neponset st.
Plant, Fred A., 48 Jackson street
Plant, Roy W., 48 Jackson st.
Podgurski, Edward B., Pine st.
Podgurski, Francis A., 164 Mechani
Poirier, Lawrence J., 34 Jackson st.
Polmonari, John F., Mechanic st.
Polmonari, Umberto A., 64 High st.
Poole, William F., 399 Chapman st.
Poore, Walter S., Blue Hill street
Porcaro, Carmine, 148 Neponset st.
Porcaro, George, 148 Neponset st.
Porcaro, Joseph P., 148 Neponset s
Porcaro, Joseph D., 42 Plymouth st.
Powers, Albert, 162 Neponset st.
Powers, Edward J., 365 Wash. st.
Powers, Edward J., 253 Neponset st.
Powers, James W., 10 Lincoln st.
Powers, John F., 365 Washington st.
Powers, William T., 12 Traverse st.
Pozzo, Angela C., 727 Pleasant st.
Pozzo, Richard W., 67 Lawrence st.
Pozzo, Robert, 727 Pleasant st.
Pratt, Roland R., Jr., 50 Wall st.
Priluck, Harry, 328 Bolivar st.
Primpas, Charles V., Randolph st.
Primpas, Louis V., Randolph street

Queenan, Charles F., 38 Chapel st.
Queenan, John J. Jr., 38 Chapel st.
Quigley, William, 421 Washington st.
Quinn, Walter C., York street

Radzevich, Joseph J., 134 Mechanic st.
Raftery, John P., 57 Endicott street
Raftery, Martin F., 57 Endicott st.
Raggiani, Frank A., 17 Neponset st.
Raggiana, John, 17 Neponset street.
Rawlins, Robert E., Indian Lane
Reardon, John F., 82 Rockland st.
Reekstein, Richard J., 32 Turnpike st.
Reid, Frank Wm. 18 Ponkapoag Way
Reynolds, Albert F., Jr., 44 Jackson
Reynolds, Howard W., 7 Rockland st.
Reynolds, William P., 756 Wash. st.
Richardson, John Jr., Green street
Riley, Charles R., 313 High street
Riley, Joseph B., 313 High street
Roache, George H., 436 Sherman st.
Roche, Charles L., 40 Tolman street
Roache, Francis L., 436 Sherman st.
Roache, James A., 436 Sherman st.
Roache, John F., 99 Leonard street
Roache, Joseph P., 376 Chapman st.
Robertson, Hubbard F. 25 Chapman
Rogers, Paul J., 577 Washington st.
Rolfe, Alfred H., 79 Prospect st.
Rolfe, Francis G., 79 Prospect st.
Romanelli, Anthony P., 7 Traverse Pl.
Romanelli, Eugene F., 7 Traverse Pl.
Romanelli, Frank, 7 Traverse Pl.
Romanelli, Joseph S., 7 Traverse Pl.
Romanelli, Salvatore, Jr., 7 Trav. Pl.
Ronayne, John G., 29 Sherman ave.
Ronayne, Joseph F., 29 Sherman ave.
Ronayne, Maurice E., Jr., 29 Sher. av.
Ronayne, Paul V., 16 Savin Hill st.
Ronayne, Thomas J. Jr., 16 Savin Hill

Rose, Joseph P., 793 Washington st.
Roscoe, Anne, Randolph street
Rosenblatt, Sumner, Church street
Ruane, Francis E., 11 Sherman ave.
Ruane, John F., 88 Lawrence street
Ruane, Joseph B., Sherman avenue
Rubin, Dr. Julius, 442 Washington st.
Russell, Otis B., 559 Washington st.
Russell, Walter, 193 Bailey street
Ruscitti, Peter J., 120 Tolman st.

Sacco, Arthur J., 236 Neponset st.
Salvatori, Philip, 204 Lawrence st.
Sarra, Peter R., 318 Sherman street
Sarra, Salvatore S. Jr., 305 Sherman
Savino, Angelo 15 Wall st.
Savino, Joseph J., 19 Mechanic st.
Sawyer, Richard F., 38 Sherman ave.
Scarsilloni, Lawrence J., 106 Prospect
Schofield, Ernest R., Dedham rd.
Seaman, Calvin, 355 Pleasant street
Seaman, Donald G., 355 Pleasant st.
Shannon, Francis G., 147 High st.
Shapiro, Jacob, Randolph street
Shaughnessey, Richard G., 20 Beal st.
Shaughnessey, William E. Jr. Beal st
Shaw, H. Westcott, 41 Independence
Shea, Daniel T., 24 Church st.
Sheehan, D. Joseph, 360a Neponset st
Sherr, Earle J., 52 Tolman street
Sherr, Charles E., 52 Tolman st.
Sherr, William M., 52 Tolman street
Simons, William J., 2253 Washington
Simmons, Donald D., 170 Mechanic st.
Simons, Edward A., 1944 Washington st. Braintree, formerly of Canton
Skehan, Melvin B., 20 Sherman ave.
Sloan, Paul V., 586 Washington st.
Smith, Charles E., 232 Messinger st.
Smith, Harry E., Lake Road
Smith, James E., 252 Neponset st.
Smith, Robert E., Leigh Road
Smith, Warren B., Elm street
Sodano, Michael, 64 Endicott street
Sodano, Walter H., 64 Endicott st.
Southworth, Albert W., 271 Sherman
Spada, Anthony J., 21 Wall street
Sparrell, George R. Jr., 142 Wash. st
Sparrell, William, 142 Washington st
Spear, Earle T., 605 Chapman st.
Spring, Harry M., 280 Pleasant st.
Standish Karl
Staples, Earl M., 1 Revere Court
Steinberg, Harry, 59 Tolman st.
Stockwell, Anthony, 211 Lawrence
Stevens, Charlotte M., 2575 Wash. st.
Stevenson, James M., 18 Kinsley Pl.
St. George, Richard W., 396
Stone, Arthur A., 86 Dedhan
Stone, Lester B. Jr., 36 Ded
Stone, Oscar F., Jr., 62 Sh
Stoner, Owen, 99 Spring La
Storme, James H., 43 Walp
Storme, Joseph F., 40 Walp
Stratigakis, Theodore G., 22
Strout, Philip, 178 Washing
Strumski, Joseph F., Crane
Strumski, Leo W., 12 Cran
Stuart, Henry J., 16 Capen

Sullivan, James, 24 Savin
Sullivan, Matthew, 1973 W
Sumner, Larra T. Jr., 138
Swarlick, Samuel, 138 High
Sweeney, Francis V., 267 P
Sweeney, Robert A., 287 P
Sweeney, Wm. J. Jr., 287 P
Sweetman, Charles F., 36 V
Sykes, John R., 403 Nepo
Szerla, Louis J., Stoughton (registered i

Tarbox, Chester A., 24 Cen
Taylor, Dayton V., 833 Was
Teague, Arthur L., 6 Lawr
Teague, Francis E., 6 Law
Teague, Kenneth T., 6 Law
Teague, Maynard W., 482
Teague, Richard W., 6 Law
Teague, Robert E., 6 Lawr
Terrio, Robert T., 5 Nepons
Thackwray, J. Herbert, W
Thomas, George E., 236 M
Thomas, John R., 477 Boli
Thomas, Robert C., 25 Pros
Thomas, Robert U., 236 Mec
Thompson, James W., 345 S
Thompson, M. J. Jr., 345 S
Thomson, Theresa K., Fa
Thompson, Dr. William J.,
Thomson, Alfred J., Pierce
Thornhill, Herbert T., Gree
Timmons, Paul J., 16 Ponka
Tinglof, Richard M., 2227
Tinkham, Robert L., 2280 W
Titus, Clarence O., 1306 W
Titus, Donald A., 46 Morto
Titus, Ernest W., 34 Rando
Titus, George Carleton, 46
Toleno, Michael C., Washin
Tolias, Charles S., 76 Mech
Tolias, Nicholas S., Mechan
Tordoff, Alfred R., 63 Pond
Tougas, Winfred E., 2775
Tracy, Allen W., Jr., India
Trask, Frederick, 860 Wash
Trayers, John P., 112 Sher
Tumas, Stanley L., 245 Nep
Turner, Leon B., 27 Lewis
Tyrrell, Eugene J., 13 How

Uliano, Julio A., 24 Wall
Ulman, Joseph, 62 Sherman

Valday, David G., Chapman

Veiga, Manuel J., Rockland street
Vendetti, Louis A., 59 Endicott st.
Vendetti, Michael, 59 Endicott st.
Vendetti, Salvatore J., 59 Endicott st.
Venckus, John E., 11 Sherman ave.
Verity, Arnold H., 899 Washington st.
Verity, Ernest W., 899 Washington st.
Verzone, Gino F., 161 Walpole st.
Vlahoganis, John S., 27 Page street
Vlahogianis, Mary C., 27 Page street

Walters, Stanley H., York street
Webster, Arthur D., Randolph st.
Webster, Frederick C., 33 Randolph
Webster, John A., Sherman street
Webster, Richard A., Randolph st.
Weckbacher, Gustav A., 592A Wash.
Weeks, Harold F., 11 Danforth street
Wells, Joseph E., 102 Mechanic st.
Wells, Norman A. Jr., 102 Mechanic
Wentworth, Arthur, 24 Centre street
Wentworth, Chester T., 24 Centre st.
Wentworth, Nathaniel Jr., 391 Wash.
Wenzel, Robert Leslie, 6 Lawrence st.
West, Ethelbert S., 88 Messinger st.
Wetherbee, Roland W., 866 Wash. st.
White, Frederick G., 646 Chapman st.
White, Calvin J., 116 Lawrence st.
White, John S., 53 Fuller street.
White, Roy W., 646 Chapman st.
Whitty, Donald E., 222 Sherman st.
Whitty, Francis, 222 Sherman street
Whitty, John, 266 Sherman street
Whitty, Paul X., 222 Sherman st.
Whitty, Thomas E. Jr., 266 Sherman
Wile, Andrew L., 40 Randolph street
Williams, Eugene, 92 Pleasant street
Williams, William J., 92 Pleasant st.
Wilson, John A., 441 Walpole st.
Winslow, Wadsworth Jr., 352 Wash.
Withee, Thomas D., 41 Wall st.
Witt, Carl, 1178 Washington st.
Wood, Dustin C., Mass. Hosp School
Wood, Frank W., 313 Washington st.
Wood, James Robert, Indian Lane
Wood, Margaret A., Indian Lane
Wood, Phyllis M., 28 Pequit street
Wood, Robert H., Mass. Hosp. School
Wood, Russell H., 68 Jackson st.
Wood, William, Indian Lane
Wood, William H. Jr., 279 Pleasant st
Woodman, Robert W., 433 Walpole st.

Yeomans, Edward H., 361 Neponset
Young, Francis T., Sutcliffe Ave.
Young, John Vincent, 68 Prospect st.
Young, Henry Leo, 27 Sutcliffe ave.

Zachorne, George W., Blue Hill st.
Zanazzo, Teresa, 180 Neponset st.
Zimmer, Joseph, 9 Lincoln street

Peace

In simple truth, America and its Allies have not merely "won a war." Yes, we have defeated our enemies; but what we have "won" is the opportunity to build a peace that is strong and everlasting.. In this great hour of victory, no man can do less than dedicate his heart and his efforts toward a war-less world, not just in our time, but for the centuries to come . . . To America's dauntless fighting men, soon to return to their longing families, we say from overflowing hearts:

"WELL AND NOBLY DONE!"

"Lest We Forget"

5-47

There are hundreds of fine American boys who are destined to spend months, years, even whole lives in hospitals, because of World War II. They never will know what it means to lead a normal healthy life. They made this sacrifice for us and nothing we can do will ever make up to them what they have lost. However, we can and must (and I'm sure most of us think it a great privilege) do all the things within our power to make them happy and comfortable.

They need games, radios, cards, books, reading matter, music records, birthday gifts, an endless flow of them. They need money for such things as ping pong tables, material for handicraft, baseball equipment, etc.

Besides the hospitalized men, there are hundreds of boys going out of Boston on ships, to outposts, to be gone for many months. These boys also must have recreational facilities. The marine bases, the army posts, the naval air stations all are begging for books, cards, games, etc. The armed forces no longer assume any responsibility for this sort of thing and so our Red Cross has been struggling to answer their requests by volunteer donations. Are you doing all you can? Couldn't you find a few packs of used, but clean cards, a dozen or more Reader's Digests, Omnibooks, National Geographics, comics, Science magazines; a few sheets of popular music, records, or couldn't you send a small donation of money now and then with which to buy equipment?

Perhaps you would enjoy doing up some birthday gifts that we could send from Canton to the hospital in West Roxbury.

The gratitude of the boys is so rewarding and after all, it is very little in return for the sacrifices they have made for us. Please send any articles to the Red Cross Rooms on Tuesday, or to

Mrs. James B. Draper,
Elm Street
Canton, Massachusetts.
Chairman, Canton Branch.

Six Leave for Army Service

Walter D. Landon, Donald A. Billings, John A. Bright, Walter Bertiletti, George W. Zachorne, Joseph B. Riley.

Four Canton Men Left Wednesday For Year in Army

Four Canton men were included in the quota of 17 selectees who left for a year's training on Wednesday, February 26th from the Dedham-Westwood-Canton draft district.

The four Canton men were John W. Williams of 92 Pleasant street; Jock McHardy Sturrock, 746 Washington street; Gerald D. Hallett of 326 Bolivar street, and Frank J. Brown, Jr., 25 Pond street.

Five More Canton Men in Selective Service on Tuesday

Canton will send five boys in the Selective Service draft call next Tuesday, September 9th. The Canton, Dedham, Westwood Draft Board will send twelve boys into the service that day; seven boys from Dedham completing the quota.

To be called from Canton are Richard Bradley Paul, 48 Spring lane; Earl Jacob Sherr, 52 Tolman street; Leland French Morse, 67 Sherman street; Dominic DiStefano, 169 Mechanic street; Stanley Harris Sutherland, 2526 Washington street.

Three More Men From Canton to Be Inducted Mar. 5

Victor P. Philbrick, 89 Mechanic street; Gerald W. Scully, 25 Rockland street; and John W. Cushman of 793 Washington street are among the 26 men called for a year's selective service on Wednesday, March 5th.

The 26 men will be the quota of Draft Board No. 56 comprising the towns of Canton, Dedham, and Westwood. In addition to the 26 men in the March 5th call, three replacements on the February 26th call will leave at the same time.

Six From Canton Left Tuesday for Year in Army

Five Canton draftees and a volunteer were among the 20 young men called from local Draft Board No. 56, who left on Tuesday, February 11 for Fort Devens in the February quota for one year's service in the United States Army. There were six local boys in the list published last week but one of them, Lawrence R. Brigham, 66 Fuller street, did not have to go because of the volunteering of Walter Bertiletti of Jackson street.

The group left for Dedham before eight o'clock last Tuesday morning, where they were joined by 144 other young men from Dedham and Westwood. They proceeded to Boston for induction and all were sent to Fort Devens.

The six who left from Canton were:

265 Donald A. Billings, 476 Washington street
307 Walter D. Landon, 392 Pleasant street
Walter Bertiletti, Jackson street
124 Joseph B. Riley, 313 High street
145 George W. Zachorne, Blue Hill street
204 John A. Bright, 62 Chapman street

Income Tax Blanks Mailed; Must Be Returned Mar. 15

More than 450,000 Massachusetts citizens have received letters since January 3 bearing their 1941 federal income tax forms. Under a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court if a joint income tax return is filed it is treated as a return on one taxable unit and the tax is computed on the combined net income.

A rider, containing this information, will accompany each form. All income

Red Cross Chapter Stresses Need for More Workers Here

Plans Complete For Draft Registration on Wednesday, October 16

Nine Hundred Expected to Register at Memorial Hall—Joseph P. Draper to Head Draft Board

Town Clerk Daniel J. Flood has completed plans for the draft registration of some 900 young men between the ages of 21 and 36 on Wednesday, October 16. Registration will take place in the auditorium of Memorial Hall between the hours of 7 a. m. and 9 p. m.

Town Clerk Flood and Chairman C. K. Endicott of the National Defense Committee in Canton attended a conference at the State House last week to familiarize them with the various details regarding registration. On last evening some thirty-five men who have volunteered their services met in lower Memorial Hall where Mr. Flood and Mr. Endicott outlined the work they will be required to do. The men were assigned certain hours they will work during the day and were all sworn in by Town Clerk Flood.

Those who find it impossible to attend the registration because of sickness or disability should inform Town Clerk Daniel J. Flood to this effect and he will see to it that one of the registration board will contact these individuals and obtain the desired information.

He urges everyone to make an appearance as soon as possible following the opening as some time will be taken in registering each person and if put off until the last minute will cause considerable confusion at the close of the day. Every person appearing for registration should have an idea of what questions will be asked and of the proper answers in order that the work of the board may be accomplished with speed and dispatch.

The following eleven questions, which appear on the registration blanks, should be studied and answers prepared so that no time will be wasted during the day. Questions are as follows: Name, first, middle and last; Address, town, county and state; telephone; Age in years and date of birth; Place of birth; Country of citizenship; Name of person who will always know your address; Relationship of that person; Address of that person; Employers name; Place of employment or business. The answers to these questions are then sworn to as being correct and your signature is placed at the bottom.

The towns of Canton, Dedham and Westwood will be under the jurisdiction of the seven man draft board appointed Wednesday by Governor Saltonstall.

Judge Joseph P. Draper of Canton will head the board. Other members will be Alfred Henderson, Patrick Carr, Roger B. Conant, Elmer M. Bennett, Henry P. McLaren, H. C. Batchelder. Their office will be located in Dedham. Some are under the impression that they must register there but such is not the case. A place of registration has been provided in each town.

JUDGE JOSEPH P. DRAPER
To Head Local Draft Board

Town Clerk Daniel J. Flood wishes to thank all who have volunteered to assist in the registration and the response to the call has far exceeded his needs. Many women have voluteered their services and although their services will not be necessary Town Clerk Flood wants to thank them for their spirit and thoughtfulness.

Lawrence P. Clews, Fuller St., in First Draft, at Devens

Canton had the distinction of sending the first man last Monday from the district in the first emergency peacetime draft when Lawrence P. Clews 66 Fuller street, whose revised number is V-30, left for Fort Devens. Clews, and two other young men, both of Dedham, composed the first group from District 56, to leave for a year's army training. The two other youth are James Guild Hamilton, 102 Oakdale avenue, Dedham, V-842; and

Two Canton Men Leave Today for Fort Devens

Eleven men marched this morning from the draft headquarters at Dedham to the 8.18 a. m. train that will take them to Fort Devens on the first stage of their career as soldiers in Uncle Sam's enlarged fighting forces.

The two from Canton, George Anagnoston and Alec Philopoulus, both volunteers, were among the eleven men from Draft Board 56 representing the towns of Canton, Dedham, and Westwood.

Tribute to the boys began at the courthouse headquarters of the draft board and ended at the Dedham railroad station. At the headquarters the men, their relatives, sweethearts and friends listened to short addresses of farewell by members of the draft board and other prominent men.

Joseph V. Marinaro Leaves on Jan. 16 For Camp Edwards

Joseph V. Marenaro of 156 Mechanic street will leave for Camp Edwards on January 16. He has been a member of Company 9, 101st Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard which makes up part of the well-known 26th Division, better known as the Yankee Division, for the past four years and has recently been promoted to the rank of sergeant. He has been to five camps, including the 1939 maneuvers at Plattsburg, N. Y., and the 1940 maneuvers in Pottsdam, N. Y.

Due to the big defense program, the selective service draft and the induction of the National Guard, a great many commissioned officers are needed. The year of intensive training will include a school for those who show interest and the ability to become commissioned officers. Mr. Marenaro hopes to take part in these classes and receive his commission by the end of the year.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Robert Edgar Gelpke

The last man from Canton who gave his life in his country's service in the World War II era was Robert E. Gelpke. Born on November 25, 1924, he was one of six children of Charles and Julia Gelpke. Bob and his twin brother, Roy, had three older siblings, Carl, Paul and Ethel, as well as a younger sister, Mary. Charles Gelpke was secretary of the Springdale Finishing Company and worked for its president, John H. Meyers.

The family resided at 432 Pleasant Street on a 19-acre tract of land that extended back to the Reservoir and encompassed much of the present Pleasant Circle area. The Gelpkes were a happy and close-knit family, all of whom attended the Eliot School. As is often the case with twins, Bob and Roy were especially close; their sister, Mary, remembers that "everything about them was doubled."

Photo courtesy of Mary (Gelpke) Holmes

Robert Edgar Gelpke

The Gelpke twins were pals of another set of twins in town, the Holmes brothers, Warren and Wesley. The two sets of twins were chosen to

(continued on page 7)

participate in an ongoing study of twins conducted by Harvard Medical School. Today, over 60 years later, the Holmes twins are still participants in the project. The link between the sets of twins had another connection, when Warren Holmes married Mary Gelpke.

Bob was a good-looking young man about 5'9' in height and of medium weight. He had a frank and engaging smile and was a good student and one of the best-liked graduates of Canton High School's Class of 1942. He was only 17 at the time of Pearl Harbor and still at that age when he finished high school. Like so many other young men in town, he found employment at the Fore River Ship Yard before entering military service.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on May 25, 1943, while still only 18. He was stationed stateside in numerous locations and trained at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis and at Missouri State Teachers College at Springfield, Missouri in the Ozarks. He then had assignments at San Antonio, Texas, Chickasa, Oklahoma, Coffeyville, Kansas and Perry and Tallahasee, Florida. He was appointed as a Flying Officer at Aloe Field in Victoria, Texas in August 944 and assigned as a fighter pilot.

His twin brother. Roy, was following a similar military career and was also made a Flying Officer.

Bob went overseas in April 1945 and was with the Eighth Air Force, flying first from Cambridge, England and later from Hanau field near Frankfurt in occupied Germany. On November 22, 1945, Thanksgiving Day, he was flying the mail route from Stuttgart to Hanau when he crashed into a mountain in a blinding snowstorm. It was three days before his 21st birthday.

His family in Canton was notified of his death on November 30 and later received a letter from a German farmer who had heard the crash and investigated the scene. Finding Bob's identity, he wrote a letter of explanation and condolence to the family, which was translated for them by a local German-American family.

Bob was interred in a cemetery at Hanau, but later, the family had his body buried in the American military cemetery at St. Lo in Normandy. That his death occurred after the end of active hostilities was especially poignant and heart-breaking.

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A memorial sign will be dedicated in memory of Flight Officer Robert E. Gelpke at the corner of Pleasant Circle and Pleasant Streets on Wednesday May 29 at 2 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Donald J. Graham

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

Who was Donald J. Graham? Where does a search begin about a local WWII hero whose identity lies beyond the memory of present-day Canton?

An attempt to highlight this Canton soldier's life more appropriately may be titled the "Forgotten Hero" rather than the "Fallen Hero."

Donald J. Graham was not listed in the town's weekly-updated alphabetical roster of WWII service men and women for almost all of his military life. No local acknowledgement appeared in the newspaper of his entry into the Army in 1943. The very brief 1945 notice that he had been killed in action was published, but with no accompanying picture, no family background — except for his wife's name — and finally, no follow-up story. After inadvertently failing to include Donald J. Graham in my booklet, "All the Walters from Canton in WWII" and then compounding the error by excluding him for a second time in the revised version of the booklet, which now is in use by the Canton Veterans' Service Office, a thorough effort at this time is owed to the memory of Donald J. Graham. Of necessity, therefore, the various avenues explored to track his obscure past now became part of his story.

A likely starting point of the search obviously was the Canton Town Clerk's office, where old street listings recorded that Donald and Ila Graham had lived at 3 Hubbard Street in 1941. Prior to that time, the street itself had not existed. Many of the surrounding streets came into existence as part of the first and only major development in Canton just preceding and immediately following WWII. According to the street listing, Donald was 33 years old in 1941, married to Ila, age 31, a newspaperman and a Canadian citizen by birth.

One other bit of information looked promising. Prior to 1941 he had resided in Wollaston. Since Hubbard Street had just been accepted by the town, the Grahams could possibly have been the original occupants of that property. With nothing available at the Assessor's office, the next step was the Norfolk Registry of Deeds in Dedham.

Book 2289, page 499, did in fact contain the recorded real estate transaction on the subject property. On August 2, 1940 Donald and Ila Graham had purchased their home at 3 Hubbard Street from Model T Homes, Inc. A subsequent registry transaction identified the mortgage bank. But because of the privacy factor, that source could not be pursued for background information. Further research indicated that Ila Graham remained at this residence following her husband's death until she sold it to new owners on May 29, 1945.

While in Dedham, would there be any value in checking with Local Draft Board No. 26?

The first person questioned about the location peered quizzically – "What is a Draft Board?" The second suggested the Norfolk County Treasurer's Office. The third was convinced the Draft Board was at the local Post Office. Clearly, Local #26 no longer holds a position of importance – if it exists at all!

There followed a quick drive to the City of Presidents, where Brenda and her assistant at the Quincy City Clerk's Office scoured the archives for any information regarding the 1940 Wollaston residency of Donald J. Graham. Unfortunately, nothing turned up.

Back in Canton, no one presently residing on Hubbard Street had been born at the time of Donald Graham's death. Neither they, nor other elder townies could offer any recollections of either Donald or Ila. It began to look like a dead end.

The possibility that the Quincy Library might offer some clues came to mind. There followed a second trip to Quincy, where Linda Beeler, head of reference, rendered instant and expert service. Her source material showed Donald and Ila Graham in 1940 as residents of 45 Apthorp St off Quincy Shore Drive. No names from that era, however, still exist in the current street listing. She did locate one other reference on page 9 of the July 13, 1943 Patriot Ledger. Donald Graham on that date had been one of approximately 40 draftees from that local draft board who were inducted at that time. Although Donald had been a resident and homeowner in Canton for almost two years, he had remained on the Quincy Draft Board rolls: a fact that explained the lack of any notice in Canton regarding his induction.

The Military Adjutant General Office in Boston contains volumes on Massachusetts' service men and women. A look there quickly produced some facts on Donald's military service. He had entered the U.S. Army from Canton at midyear in 1943 as a 35-year-old man — well beyond the prime draftee age. He was born on Christmas Day in 1908 at Kingston, Ontario, and his father's name was John. Finally, something definitive had surfaced!

Jim Purser in records management at the Kingston, Ontario's city clerk's office suggested the registrar general of Ontario, the Archives of Ontario and the Church of Latter Day Saints in Ontario. All turned out to be interesting telephone conversations, but little information was available, since Canadian law restricts the release of personal files for a period of 95 years. Donald Graham would have been 95 in 2003.

Ms. Pat Ryburn at the Canton Library extended her personal assistance by locating sources to access Donald Graham's Army experiences. In the newspaper announcement, it was reported that Donald J. Graham died on April 19, 1945 from battle wounds sustained in the Italian theatre of operations. He had served in an infantry unit for approximately one year but, because of censorship, no further clarification could be given.

Today, it is possible to identify his unit. Donald held the rank of Private First Class in the 350th Infantry Regiment, which — along with two other regiments — comprised the 88th Division. The 88th "Blue Devils" had been reactivated in 1942 and departed for overseas in December 1943. The division transferred from North Africa to Naples, Italy in early February 1944 in time for action at Monte Cassino. Donald Graham joined his unit at approximately this time. The major battles credited to the "Blue Devils" were Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley.

In January 1945 the 88th Division relieved the 91st Division at the Loiano-Livergnano sector of the front. In addition to formidable German Panzer units, the American forces had to contend with both difficult weather conditions and rugged mountain terrain. The division resumed its Bologna Offensive on April 15, 1945. Donald J. Graham, as a front line infantryman, survived the battle for Monte Monterumici, but most likely suffered serious wounds on the following day when his regiment took Monte Mario. Pfc. Graham died from those wounds on April 19, 1945. His division went on to cross the Po River, capture Verona, advance through the Dolomite Alps and ultimately on to Innsbruck, Austria where the war ended on May 2, 1945. At the conclusion of WWII, the 88th Division's losses stood at 2556 killed in action and 9225 wounded.

Pfc. Donald J. Graham received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal; Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge as well as a Bronze Star. Unfortunately, he lost his life less than three weeks before the end of hostilities. He did not live to receive these honors in person from his country.

He is buried in the Florence American Cemetery at Florence, Italy in Plot C, Row 4, Grave 41. Donald Graham is not alone; 4402 American military dead lie there in perpetual rest on seventy acres. The headstones are arrayed in symmetrical curved rows upon a hillside that rises to a location of a pylon surmounted by a large sculptured figure. The memorial also has two open courts joined by Tablets of the Missing, on which are inscribed the names of 1409 other American soldiers who died and whose bodies were never recovered.

The WWII Florence American Cemetery and Memorial are located on Via Cassia, about seven miles south of Florence. It can be reached by train, bus or, if driving, by exiting the Rome-Milan Autostrada just north of the city.

Florence, the Renaissance capital and center of western civilization, receives thousands of tourists each year. Possibly, Canton visitors during future travels will make a brief pilgrimage to pay homage to Canton's previously "Forgotten Hero" – Pfc. Donald J. Graham.

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Next week, local citizens will not need to travel very far to extend their respects to Pfc. Donald J. Graham. His very own Fallen Hero sign will be dedicated to his memory at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at Hubbard and Washington Streets.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* John F. Griffin

By Ed Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

As young boys, they walked together to and from St. John's Grammar School: one from Pleasant/ Prospect St., the other from Sherman/ Leonard Street.

So it was, that Albert Callahan and John Griffin became close friends. Their paths parted only slightly when Albert remained at St. John's High and John moved next door to Canton High.

On October 8, 1940, with school well behind them, the two grown young men traveled to Boston, where they enlisted in the U.S. Army. Eventually, one was assigned to Europe, the other to the Pacific. Both died in the service of their country; both are designated as "missing in action or buried at sea" by the American Battle Monuments Commission; both are listed on tablets of the missing: Albert Callahan at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy and John Griffin on the Cabanatuan American Memorial at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Albert Callahan was memorialized on April 10, 2002 by his community.

This account is about John F. Griffin will be honored on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, when the corner of Leonard and Sherman Streets will be dedicated to his memory by the Town of Canton in its *Fallen Hero* program.

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John was a native born Cantonite whose parents, Michael Griffin and Margaret Smyth Griffin, had emigrated from Galway, Ireland. As the youngest of five siblings, John shared his home on Leonard Street with his sisters, Marion, Margaret and Elizabeth, as well as his brother, Thomas. His oldest sister, Marion, assumed the household responsibilities when Mrs. Griffin passed away at a young age. Marion married Thomas J. Roe and raised two children, Tom and Paul. She died in February 2002 at age 95. Margaret became the wife of Stephan Robitaille; they resided in Brookline. Their only son, Philip, now lives in New Hampshire. Elizabeth married George Peavey and remained at 22 Leonard Street. Their son, John Peavey, now occupies the family homestead. Another son, Donald Peavey, is a resident of Franklin. John Griffin's brother, Thomas, who never married, was a long-term employee of the Town of Canton. He served with distinction in the US Army campaigns of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany.

John Griffin and his little brother, Thomas.

John Griffin graduated with the Canton High School Class of 1937. He was one of 62 who received their diplomas in upper Memorial Hall on June 18, 1937. His nephew, Paul Roe, now preserves the family history. Paul's recollections of his uncle are limited to isolated flashbacks, since he was only 4 years old when Uncle John went off to war. Among the family papers are articles on Charles Atlas, the body-builder sensation of the time. John Griffin had a passion for the Atlas fitness program and was a dedicated weight lifter. Otherwise, sports were not a serious interest to him.

The days that followed high school were not particularly encouraging. Employment opportunities were limited for both young and old. When Bill Kelleher, former school committee member and native of Canton, was asked recently why John Griffin enlisted prior to America's involvement in WWII, he had a quick answer: "no jobs." A shipping company had employed John in Boston, but the predictable future was the oncoming military draft. "So why not enlist and have some choice in assignments!" said Bill Kelleher.

Following a brief three months of basic training, John Griffin was sent to his duty station in the Philippine Islands. He joined his unit, the 17th Signal Platoon, at Nichols Field in Rizol. Not long thereafter, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. Ten hours later, thousands of miles to the west, the enemy began the bombardment of Clark and Nichols Fields in the Philippines. Over a 24-hour period, the Japanese had destroyed the American Pacific Fleet and half of the Far East American Air Force.

Japanese ground forces invaded the Philippines on December 24. In a matter of days, American forces were ordered to withdraw onto the Bataan Peninsula. Their rations were cut to 30 ounces per day and later to 15 ounces. Lack of food, medicine and bombardments, coupled with malaria, dingy fever, malnutrition, and dysentery, reduced the effectiveness of the American troops. Bataan surrendered on April 9, 1942, although resistance continued on the island of Corregidor. Without air power, supplies and reinforcements, the Americans felt abandoned and without hope.

Approximately 55,000 Filipinos and 10,000 American Soldiers, Sailors and Marines were taken prisoner near Mariveles at the southern tip of Bataan. From there they began what has been defined as the Death March. Deprived of water in oppressive heat, they were forced to march for a number of days over an 85-mile stretch to a railroad depot at San Fernando. Up to 10,000 Filipinos and 1000 Americans died on the Death March. Then they were herded into small boxcars for a train "ride" to Capas, where those who survived were marched to a POW stockade, Camp O'Donnell. This documented, inhumane and barbaric treatment had its origins in the Japanese warrior BUSHIDO CODE, which regarded any enemy who surrenders as contemptible and deserving of death. But there were also incidents of human respect and decency. A Doctor Scott later reported that when he was stricken with malaria at a POW camp, he fell asleep on a cot of a Japanese soldier. The following morning, he found himself still safely in the cot with the so-called enemy soldier sleeping on the floor next to him.

John Griffin survived the horrors of the Death March, but like thousands of other fellow prisoners in the Philippines, he died at some point after the march, probably at Camp #3 Catabantuan. His nephew, Paul Roe, refers to old communications to the Griffin family from the War Department, which cited information obtained by the International Red Cross and which recorded his death to have occurred on May 21, 1943. The American Battle Monuments Commission establishes the date as August 13, 1942. In either case, John Griffin's body was never recovered or identified. Could he have been moved on one of the Hell Ships that were unmarked and often sunk by American submarines? Or was he a victim of the terrible conditions and treatment at the camps?

Fred W. Koenig, 1st LT. USA, memorialized John Griffin and the others who sacrificed their lives in the Philippine Islands 60 years ago in a poem.

The Vanquished Speak

Here on this sun-scorched hill we laid us down in silence deep as is the silence of defeat.

Upon our wasted brow you placed no laurel crown but neither did you sound the trumpet for retreat.

Mourn not for us for here defeat and victory are one; we cannot feel humanity's insidious harm; the strife with famine, pain and pestilence are done.

Our compromise with death laid by that mortal storm.

Though chastened, well we know our mission is not dead, nor are the dreams of victory we dreamed in vain.

for lo, the dawn is in the east; the night is fled before an August day which will be ours again.

So rest we here, dear comrades, on this foreign hill, this alien clay made somehow richer by our dust, provides us with transitory couch, until the loving hills of home enfold us in maternal trust.

We are assured brave hearts across the sea will not forget the humble sacrifice we laid on Freedom's sacred shrine and hold that righteousness will be triumphant

Yet, and o'er the Earth again His Star of Peace will shine.

***

In the 18th century a famous Prussian general made the profound observation that "war is an extension of politics by other means."

In the 21st century a corollary to those words should be "peace must be the only other means." A community dedicated to the peaceful solutions of political differences would be the one true lasting homage to John Griffin and all the vanquished of WWII.

Town to honor Fallen Hero Dana Igo

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

Lulu N. Riford, principal of the Eliot School for many years, always spoke fervently to her classes regarding Canton's historical significance in the creation of this nation. She dwelled on the extraordinary demands that the act of independence had made upon ordinary citizens of the Revolutionary Period.

Never did she fail to make American history lessons relevant to the lives of her students. She foresaw that they soon would be placed in the position of ordinary citizens facing extraordinary challenges. Her words proved to be prophetic.

Not far from her schoolroom in the area of Royall and Washington Streets once stood the Doty Tavern. Unfortunately, that historic building was consumed by fire in 1888. At the tavern on August 16, 1774, area patriots gathered to formulate the concept of the Suffolk Resolves, which later served as the basis for the Declaration of Independence.

***

One hundred forty years later, new residents settled near the site of the Doty Tavern. Dana F. and Abbie Lyons Igo moved to Canton from Manchester, NH. They previously had lived in Dedham, where their oldest son, Dana, was born on October 12, 1914. Three other siblings completed the Igo family: James, Mary and Elizabeth. All in due time attended the Eliot School and later, Canton High School.

James married Mabel Stone. They have lived their entire life in Canton, except for the four war years when Jim served as an Army artillery sergeant in the re-conquest of Europe. Mary married into the Cardelli family, and Elizabeth became Mrs. James Whealan. They are now deceased.

Dana Igo

Dana graduated from high school and continued his education for two years at Northeastern University. For employment, Dana found a position at the Walker Wool Co. in South Boston.

Dana enjoyed sports, both as a participant and as a spectator. He played both football and baseball for Canton High. Historian Dan Keleher wrote an article for the *Citizen* in December 1997 regarding the exceptionally high interest in hockey by the local young men of the pre-war period. Dan's piece was accompanied by a picture from 1939 of the local skaters in uniform at the Dog Patch Arena, an outdoor still-water bog with hanging strings of lights. Dana Igo, #9, stood out in that group as one of the organizers of the Canton Corner Club. His brother, Jim, recalls that Dana also loved to wrestle at matches held in the old Canton theater.

The onset of WWII changed everything for everyone. Dana entered the military on October 20, 1942 and reported for duty on the 2nd of November of that year. The Army assigned him to the Air Corps, which at the time was not a separate branch of the military.

Following his basic training period, Dana went on to a number of specialized schools. Ultimately, he received the Silver Wings of an Aerial Gunner at the Army Air Force Gunnery School at Panama City, Florida. From there he joined a bomber squadron stationed in Italy. As a gunner on a B24 Liberator, he was promoted to Sergeant.

Bomber crews in WWII suffered some of the highest casualty rates of all the military services. On April 25, 1944, Dana Igo's B24 was shot down on a bombing run over Austria. There were no survivors. At the end of the war, his remains were recovered, but they could not be identified from those of two other crewmembers. For that reason, in November 1951, Sgt. Dana F. Igo, Sgt. Charles Austin and 2nd Lt. Glen Eby were buried together. They share a headstone at grave 73C, section 82 in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery located on Sheridan Rd., St. Louis, Missouri.

Dana Igo was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart for his bravery. The Citation of Honor was presented to him posthumously by Commanding General "Hap" Arnold, Army Air Forces, who eloquently defined Dana Igo's accomplishments and sacrifice:

"He gave his life in the performance of his duty. He lived to bear his country's arms. He died to save its honor. He was a soldier ...and he knew a soldier's duty. His sacrifice will help to keep aglow the flaming torch that lights our lives... that millions yet unborn may know the priceless joy of liberty. And we who pay him homage, and revere his memory, in solemn pride rededicate ourselves to a complete fulfillment of the task for which he so gallantly has placed his life upon the altar of man's freedom."

An ordinary individual once again had performed extraordinary deeds.

Dana F. Igo's Fallen Hero sign will be dedicated at Royall and Washington Streets on Wednesday, June 19, 2002 at 2 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Louis P. Mendes

Louis P. Mendes was the first of Canton's Cape Verdean community to give his life in the service of his country. He was born December 23, 1921 in Duxbury, the son of Samuel and Pauline Mendes. Samuel emigrated to the United States from the Cape Verde Islands, while Pauline was born in New Bedford of Cape Verdean ancestry.

There is a significant number of Cape Verdeans living in Massachusetts, and many can trace their roots back to the nineteenth century and to the whaling ships that sailed from New Bedford and Falmouth. In the midst of long voyages, these vessels often pulled into Cape Verde ports for water, supplies and to hire deck hands. Whaling was a dangerous, labor intensive and difficult occupation, but the Cape Verdeans took to it with superior skill.

In time, other members of the families of the whaling crews followed them to southeastern Massachusetts. There, in a few short years, the new Americans gained respect for their industry, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. Falmouth is probably the prime example of Cape Verdean integration into the fabric of a community. There, Cape Verdean descendents are successful businessmen, elected officials, leaders in their parish and noted for their public service.

Cape Verdeans came to Canton during World War I, many seeking employment at the Plymouth Rubber Company. Some families settled in a building on Washington Street that had second-floor apartments over a market on the ground level. The owner of the store and the property was John White, and the area was known as White's Block. The location was opposite the site of today's Stanetsky Funeral Chapel. Next to White's Block was a group of homes called Capen Place, which also became a Cape Verdean enclave. The families became integral parts of the town, were well accepted and many of their children were outstanding students and athletes in the local schools.

Death Reported of Sgt. Louis Mendes Aug. 28 in France

A newspaper photograph of Sgt. Louis Mendes

Louis Mendes received his schooling in Duxbury and came to Canton around 1937. He was a member of a large family. His mother had 14 children, and Louis was her eldest and a favorite. Her next to last child, Lois, would be born a year after Louis' death. The family first lived in White's Block and later bought a house at 14 Capen Place.

On his arrival in Canton, Louis obtained employment at the Plymouth Rubber Company, where he worked until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in October 1942. He did his basic training at Elgin Field in Florida where he received instruction as an engineer and was promoted to sergeant. He was transferred overseas to an English station in 1943.

While in the service, Louis wrote his mother affectionate letters in which he enclosed money for her to buy little gifts for herself. His letters show his concern for her health and welfare, and evidence his love for her as he addressed her as "sweetheart" and "darling."

Louis was wounded in April 1944 and spent three months in an English hospital before returning to duty in France. On August 28, 1944 Louis Mendes died from injuries received in an accident. The Massachusetts War Records Office does not have any specifics on what happened. His mother was notified of his death on Saturday night, September 16.

Besides his parents, he was survived by his sisters, Alice, Beatrice, Rosetta, Judy, Evelyn and Lorraine, and his brothers, Manuel, Ralph, Richard, Lester and Private Alfred, then on leave from Camp Lee, Virginia, and Private Antone, who was overseas. There was a memorial mass said for him the following week at St. John's, which was attended by the grieving family, citizens of the town and veterans' organizations.

His sister, Lois Perry, was born a year after his death and is named for the heroic brother she never knew, except through her mother's memories and her brother's poignant letters. Lois remembers sadly that her mother wept for Louis every day until she passed away five years ago — 50 years after losing her son.

Louis' body came home to Canton in 1949, and after a funeral mass he was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on April 28 of that year. The sister he never knew still has masses said for him every year.

A memorial sign honoring Sergeant Louis P. Mendes will be dedicated at the corner of Washington St. and Capen Place on Wednesday, July 10 at 2 p.m.

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Carlyle M. Packard

On Wednesday July 17 at 2 p.m., at the corner of Howard and Mechanic Streets a memorial sign will be dedicated to the memory of Private Carlyle M. Packard, who was killed in action during World War II.

The son of Mr. And Mrs. Maurice Packard, Carlyle was born and raised in Stoughton, where he lived at 869 Park Street.

After he married, he moved to Canton and lived at 621 Washington Street. Before entering the Army, he was employed by the Avon Sole Company in Avon.

In November 1943, Carlyle was inducted into the Army. He was wounded in France on July 4, 1944, and after he recovered he returned to active duty. He was killed in action on September 8.

NOTE: Unfortunately, more detailed information about Carlyle Packard's service life was not available.

Carlyle M. Packard

It Seems Like Yesterday By Ed Lynch

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Frederick W. Powers

Fred Powers, like George M. Cohan, Jr., was born on the Fourth of July. Unlike Cohan, who wrote stirring patriotic songs and proclaimed himself "a Yankee Doodle Dandy," Powers practiced the ultimate act of patriotism by dying for his country.

Fred was born to Frederick J. and Johanna (Roache) Powers in 1918, and his patriotic parents gave him the middle name of Wilson in honor of the wartime president, Woodrow Wilson. It is ironic that Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917, and that it was on April 6, 1945 that Fred Powers succumbed to fatal wounds suffered the previous day.

The Powers family was a large one; Fred had two brothers, Edward and Francis, and five sisters, Marjorie, Kathleen, Mary, Winifred, and Phyllis. The family lived at 371 Washington Street, just north and east of its intersection with High Street. Fred was a good-looking young man who went through the Canton schools and entered the work force in the latter part of the 1930s when the economy was still flat on its back.

He was employed successively as a route salesman/driver for Bond bread and the Canton and Blue Hills Bus Line. Both jobs entailed meeting the public and maintaining a genial disposition, which was not a task for Fred, as he was an outgoing young man. He met and married a lovely girl from South Boston, Esther Lee, and on January 17, 1941 their son, John, was born. The young couple was living in Dorchester when in June 1943 Fred received the call of the Canton Draft Board.

Fred did his initial training at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod and was later stationed at the Army Air Field at Farmingdale, NY, Fort Dix, NJ, Camp Livingston, LA and Fort Meade, MD.

He went overseas on February 19, 1945, landed in France on March 9, and by March 24 had been assigned as a replacement to Company G of the 397th Infantry Regiment of the 100th Division, which was engaged in a push across the Rhine into Germany proper. He was designated as a truck driver, but as in any infantry company, the first essential was to be a rifleman.

On April 4, 1945, the 397th at 15:00 hours began to cross the Neckar River in an attempt to capture the town and German strong point of Heilbronn. The British Air Force had terror bombed the area and had inflicted heavy civilian casualties. The bombing had the effect of increasing the fierceness of the German resistance. Fred crossed the Neckar, and on April 5 performed heroic actions that would win him the Silver Star posthumously.

His citation notes that his squad was pinned down by a German machine gun that threatened to cut them off from the rest of the platoon. Fred crawled forward, exposing himself, and fired, killing the gunner. He then rushed the emplacement, killing the remaining two gunners and capturing the gun. In the action, he was wounded but refused evacuation and remained at his post until the enemy retreated. He was hit on April 5, his wife's birthday, and died the next day.

Recently, Fred's grandson, John, contacted the Commanding Officer of Company G, 92-year-old retired Colonel John B. Ritchey of Chicago. Ritchey vividly recalled the fighting at Heilbronn and noted that of the 100 officers and men in his rifle company, 42 enlisted men were killed in action, as was one officer. In addition, he said, one officer was wounded "and two went psycho."

Fred's family was notified on April 16 of his serious wounds and informed of his death on April 20. His son, Jack, has pictures of himself as a tot with his father, but unfortunately, was too young to remember him. When Fred died, he had three of his siblings in military service. His brother Ed was in the Second Marine Division and his brother Frank was in the Army, while his sister, Marjorie Converse, was serving in the United States Coast Guard as a Spar.

Private First Class
Frederick W. Powers

Jack Powers does not remember his dad, but he does recall the day his father's body was returned to Canton for burial in July 1948. He was 7 years old at the time and can still see the flag draped casket in the front room of the family home on Washington Street. The remains, accompanied by an honor guard, came in on the 6:30 p.m. train to Canton Junction. His body had been returned to the United States on the U. S. Army Transport Lawrence Victory, along with the remains of 5,374 men.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Fred's cousin Joseph Roache, with a requiem mass at St. John's on Thursday July 22, which was attended by members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, town officials and a throng of citizens.

The pallbearers were Fred's cousins, Edward and Frank Roache, two Silver Star winners, John Howard and James Storme, and two boyhood friends, James Crowley and Charles Coveney. At St. Mary's cemetery, ex-marine Charles Lane sounded taps.

The War Department awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation to the companies of the 397th involved in the savage fight in early April of 1945; they were also given the honor of wearing a streamer embroidered with the word: HEILBRONN.

Fred Powers was awarded posthumously both the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. His son and grandchildren are proud of his valor, as was his widow, who carried her grief to her grave years later.

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A memorial sign will be dedicated in honor of P.F.C. Frederick W. Powers at the corner of Wall and Washington streets on Wednesday July 24 at 2:00 p.m. 2002

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Arthur W. Thomas

By Edward R.Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

His roots ran deep into Canton's past. Arthur Wendell Thomas was born into a family that had been a central part of the town's development.

Three Thomas brothers originally emigrated from Wales, probably at the turn of the 19th century. They settled their families at Church and Neponset Streets; later they moved to nearby Plymouth Street. Eventually, the families established homes on Mechanic and Messenger Streets.

Their Wales backgrounds most likely included mining and the evolving mechanization of that industry. The three brothers were employed by Kinsley Iron Works in supervisory positions. Kinsley Iron Works remained a major Canton industry from 1787 until the early 20th century. It covered 15 acres on the edge of the Forge Pond near the center of town.

One of the succeeding and expanding family clan was Thomas F. Thomas of Messenger St. His son, the first Arthur Wendell Thomas, served in the US Army with General Pershing's troops on the Mexican border. When the nation entered WWI, Arthur re-enlisted. The Army sent him overseas to France in September 1917. Shortly following the Armistice, Arthur died from the pneumonia epidemic at Le Babaul, France. In 1921 his remains were returned to Canton for burial.

Another member of the expanded Thomas family was George Edward Thomas, who grew up on Messenger Street next door to his cousin, Winifred Stone Withington. Mrs. Withington enjoyed a long and fruitful life until her recent death at age 105. Her daughter, Winifred

(continued on page 7)

(L-R) Arthur Thomas, Jim Igo and another soldier.

Stockus, still resides on Messenger Street and recalls vividly the 20th century Thomas family events, many of which revolved around the Frog Island/ BM'nR (Bolivar, Mechanic and Rockland Street) neighborhoods. In particular, she has many memories of her cousins from the George Edward Thomas family.

George Edward Thomas married Martha Miller of Norwood. They raised five children, including Arthur W. Thomas, who was born on August 27, 1922. He was named for his uncle who had died in WWI. Arthur attended the Crane School before going on to Canton High School for one year. He than transferred to and graduated from the Norfolk Agricultural School in Walpole. At a recent Veterans' Breakfast, Ralph Malcolmson and Andrew Johnson reminisced about their school days and youth, which they shared with Arthur Thomas. They would gather in the area behind the present-day Walgreen Pharmacy, which was the Crane School play area and the popular rendezvous for kids' activities. Sports were spontaneous and certainly not structured or organized by parents.

Nevertheless, those were fun times, and Arthur and his pals enjoyed themselves in pick-up games of all sorts.

After graduating from the "Aggie" in 1941, Arthur found related employment at the Eastern States Farmers Exchange in Brockton.

On the day after Christmas in 1942, he was inducted into the United States Army, along with Jim Igo and others from Canton. Arthur and Jim completed their basic training together at Camp Davis in North Carolina.

As the convoy was crossing a badly bombed bridge, it collapsed, dropping Arthur and others to their deaths in the waters below.

They are seen in the accompanying photograph (on page 1) taken on January 31, 1943 standing before their barracks. Then Arthur was assigned to W. Beaumont Hospital in Texas, where he received military medical training. In April 1944, Arthur went overseas, where he joined the 217th Artillery (AAA). The unit provided air and ground artillery cover for divisions in General Patton's Third Army. There, Arthur served in one of the artillery companies as a medic.

Local resident James Igo once again found himself in the same unit with Arthur but as an artilleryman. Jim recalls that Arthur was killed on August 16, 1945, while on route from Steinheim to Jena in Germany. As the convoy was crossing a badly bombed bridge, it collapsed, dropping Arthur and others to their deaths in the waters below. Jim Igo's section of the convoy reached the bridge site after the collapse had occurred.

The body of Cpl. Arthur W. Thomas was returned to Canton for burial. It was met at Canton Junction by a local military escort and Canton town officials. At the time, he was survived by his four siblings – George E. Thomas, Jr. of the US Army Air Corps; Robert V. Thomas, US Navy; Marjorie Thomas Pungitore and Eleanor Thomas Jenkins.

Rev. Alfred Ferguson conducted the service at the Trinity Church. Bearers were James Igo, John Metropolis, Kenneth Russell and John Jenkins.

Cpl. Arthur W. Thomas had been awarded two military citations and the French Croix de Guerre for his loyal and devoted service, which ultimately required the sacrifice of his life to the cause of that great endeavor – WWII.

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On Wednesday, September 4, 2002 at 2 p.m. the Town of Canton will honor the memory of Cpl. Arthur W. Thomas by dedicating the corner of Rockland and Mechanic Streets to him.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Harris Pershing Tracy

Harris Tracy was born in the Back Bay section of Boston on June 23, 1918, the second son of Allen and Janet (Wilmot) Tracy. American participation in World War I was then at its peak, and the new arrival was given the middle name of Pershing, in honor of the commander of the American Expeditionary Force, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing.

Allen, Sr. was a railroad policeman at the Back Bay station for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

Harris, who was known to his friends as "Harry," came with his family to Canton in 1922. His grandfather built a house on Indian Lane, and it was there, in a rural and idyllic setting, that Harry and his brother, Allen, Jr., and sisters, Jean and Doris, were raised. Harry's grandfather not only built his own home but also the structure that he opened at the end of Prohibition, the Sportsmen's Club. Intended as an oasis for returning hunters and fishermen, it became a popular dance club, patronized by folks from miles around.

Harry was killed in a Japanese bombing attack on November 25, 1942 — Thanksgiving Day.

Indian Lane in the 1920s and 1930s was fairly isolated and a great place for kids who loved to hunt and fish or to explore the outdoors. Harry and Allen enjoyed these activities and often were joined by their neighbors and close chums, Andy, William, James and Doug Wood.

Harry and Allen both grew to be handsome, rugged young men, each over six feet tall and athletic. Harry went to the Eliot School and attended Canton High, where he won several medals in sports. A star hockey player, he was a member of the Canton Corner team that played at the old Dogpatch rink. He was also a

Harris Pershing Tracy

track man and ran for the Brockton Y.M.C.A.

After finishing school, he found employment at the Phillips Screw Company in Stoughton and was working there at the time of Pearl Harbor.

Harry was one of the first boys from Canton to enlist in the service, as he joined the Marines in December 1941 shortly after war was declared. Two weeks later, his brother Allen followed him into the Marines. Both boys went to Parris Island and were re-united at New River, North Carolina. The brothers' request to serve together was granted, and they wound up in the Eleventh Regiment of the First Marine Division in what became known as the "Fighting G" Battery of 75 mm pack howitzers.

On May 12, 1942, while still stationed stateside in training, Harry Tracy wrote a letter to his neighbor, Mrs. Wood, in which he said a lot about himself and his friend Andy:

Dear Friend,

Please overlook the fact that I haven't written before now. You always were such a good friend of mine, I'll never forget the good times we had at your house. You were so good natured and always overlooking my shortcomings.

It makes me very happy to know that everybody is working and things are going good for you. I hear Mr. Wood is working at Phillips. That is very handy and will save on gas.

You should be proud of Andy. I shouldn't blame if your head swelled a little. He writes quite often, and so I know he is doing fine. He is a fine boy and has studied so hard for it. I feel sort of envious of his education. I realize now how valuable it is. When you find he made his wings, I wish you would write and let me know.

The Tracy brothers landed on Guadalcanal on D-Day, August 7, 1942. Guadalcanal, on the heels of the naval victory at Midway two months before, marked the turn of the tide in the Pacific war. In the early days on Guadalcanal, the Japanese played possum, but soon were launching savage counterattacks, supplemented by continual aerial and artillery bombing. Harry Tracy was in constant action at the Battle of Tenaru River and Bloody Ridge.

Allen was wounded on August 21, 1942, when hit in the arm with shrapnel. Harry was within two feet of him when he was hit, and another Canton boy, Leo Galligan of High Street, was only twenty feet away. Harry got his brother to a corpsman who found a wound severe enough that Allen was evacuated on a destroyer from the island.

The First Marines continued in a situation marked by constant day-to-day and hand-to-hand combat for several months.

In early December, they were scheduled to be replaced by an Army division. Unfortunately for Harry Tracy, the relief did not come in time. Harry was killed in a Japanese bombing attack on November 25, 1942 — Thanksgiving Day. The devastating news did not reach his family until a few day before Christmas, a time when Allen was home recuperating from his wound.

Harry's mother, in her grief, expressed her feelings in this poem:

MY SON

My son, my big brave beautiful
Son,
You sleep across the sea,
But your heart lives with
mine, dear one,
Until eternity.
You fought for right and freedom
As we all know your creed
With never a fear of anything
To keep our nation free.
You are a chosen one of God
With him you will abide
To reap the harvest of His love
Forever by His side.

Harry Tracy is buried in the National Cemetery at the Punchbowl in Hawaii. After World War II, the town dedicated a street in the name of Harry Tracy and his friend Andy Wood: Tracy Wood Road. There will be memorial signs dedicated to both men at the Route 138 end of Tracy Wood Road on September 18, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

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An account of the life and service of Andrew R. Wood, Jr. will be in the next edition of the Citizen.

1950-KOREA-1953
2ND INFANTRY DIVISION
1ST MARINE DIVISION
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
5TH AIR FORCE
13TH AIR FORCE
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
U.S. NAVY
20TH AIR FORCE
3RD INFANTRY DIVISION
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
40TH INFANTRY DIVISION
7TH INFANTRY DIVISION
45TH INFANTRY DIVISION
8TH U.S. ARMY
X CORPS
KOREAN MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP
IX CORPS
I CORPS
AIRBORNE
187TH AIRBORNE RCT
5TH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
IN MEMORY OF THE MEN WHO SERVED

From left to right are USAF Captain Mary Zamarripa, and Lee and Josephine Berteletti. The Berteletti's' cousin "Nando" Berteletti was one of three Canton residents who were killed in action during the Korean War.

Forgotten no more:

Town dedicates Korean War Memorial

By Beth Erickson
***Citizen* staff**

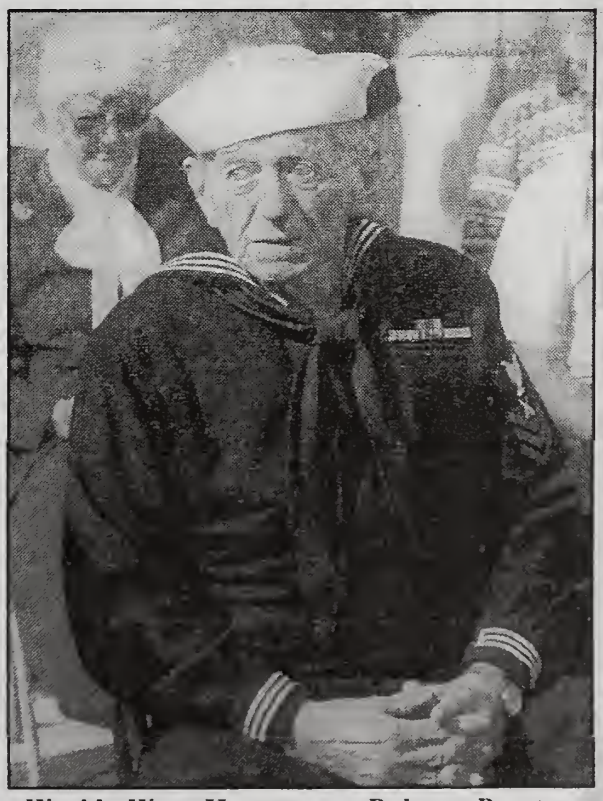
Over 54,000 Americans died in the Korean War; three of them were from Canton. Now, nearly 50 years later, the town has finally made sure they will never be forgotten.

On Sunday, September 26, under a brilliant blue sky, a long overdue Korean War Memorial was officially dedicated at the Eliot School. The names of Ferdinand (Nando) Bereteletti, Paul Hannon and Ernest D. Carrara are engraved on the monument; all three were killed in action in what has sadly come to be called America's "forgotten" war.

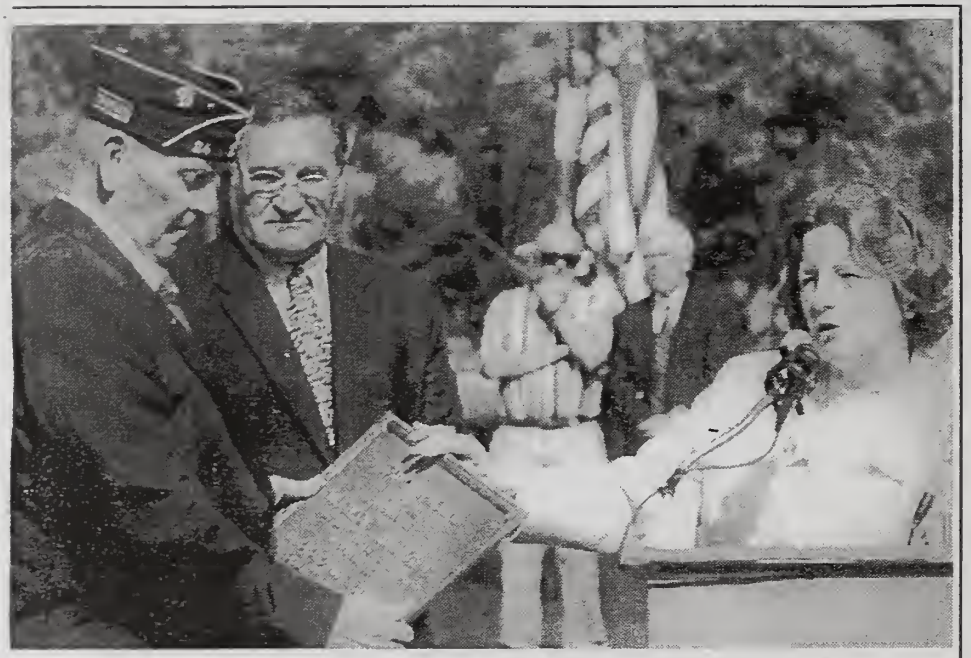
Edward R. Piana, representing the Korean War Veterans of Massachusetts, said that Hannon, a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, was a "handsome, all-American boy with wonderful parents."

Piana remembered Cararra as a 'happy-go-lucky" young man who had operated a soft drink concession stand at Messinger Field. Carrara, a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, was a member of Canton High School's Class of 1942 and had four "wonderful" siblings, Piana said.

Piana noted that Berteletti was a corporal in the U.S. Army who attended Canton schools and went on to become a highly decorated infantry man. Piana said that men like Hanlon, Berteletti and Carrara "laid the foundation for what is good in America today."



World War II veteran Robert Pesaturo participated in the official unveiling of the Korean War Memorial honoring his brother-in-law, Ernest D. Carrara.



Canton selectmen George Jenkins, center, and Avril Elkort present the Korean War plaque, which was formerly at the Canton library, to American Legion Commander Joseph "Skip" Dailey. There is now a permanent memorial in front of the Eliot School.

Korean War veteran Edward Piana addresses the gathering at Sunday's dedication.

Town dedicates Korean War Memorial..

Bea Hannon, whose son Paul J. Hannon was a Korean War hero, was presented with flowers during Sunday's dedication.

(Continued from page 1)

State Senator Brian Joyce said we should honor the deeds of those who fought in Korea for "risking everything to make this world better for all of us."

Selectman George Jenkins, who spearheaded the effort to make the monument a reality, told the gathering that the Korean War has only been "forgotten" because "we have let it be forgotten."

Jenkins said he did not come to talk about the righteousness of war. "That's for historians to do," he said. Rather, Jenkins said he came only to honor the memory of those who had died.

Noting that her late husband was a veteran of the Korean War, Selectman Avril Elkort said she had very personal feelings of appreciation for the veterans. "They fought in incredible conditions," Elkort said, "and so many did not come back."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the monument was officially unveiled by USAF Captain Mary O'Neil Zamarripa, Joseph "Skip" Dailey, commander of the American Legion Post 24, and USN-WWII veteran Robert Pesaturo. A wreath was then placed in front of the new memorial.

Canton Korean War veterans Edward Trunfio and John McCarthy, who participated in the ceremonies with the American Legion Color Guard, both said that the memorial was long overdue. "For far too long, it has been the forgotten war," McCarthy said. "Now, at least in Canton, it won't be."

Also participating in the dedication were the following individuals and groups: Canton Veterans Agent Anthony Andreotti, Reverend James McCune, Representative Bill Galvin, KWV of Ma. representative John E. Woelfel, guitarist/soloist Ann Galvin, retired Veterans' Agent George Schugmann, Reverend John Hohe, Army National Guard Color Guard, Marine Corps Reserves Color Guard, Korean War Veterans Color Bearers, American Legion Color Guard, American Legion Band under the direction of Jack Judge, Canton Police Color Guard and Detail, WW II and Korean War USN veteran Walter Kessler, American Legion Auxiliary, Stoughton AMVETS and Commander Mike Beaudette of Post 1977, Mass. Senior Vice Commander Sonny O'Reilly, and veterans of all wars.

Members of the Korean War Memorial Committee include: Skip Dailey, George Jenkins, Jack Judge, Donald MacDougall, Edward Piana, and Richard Simpson.

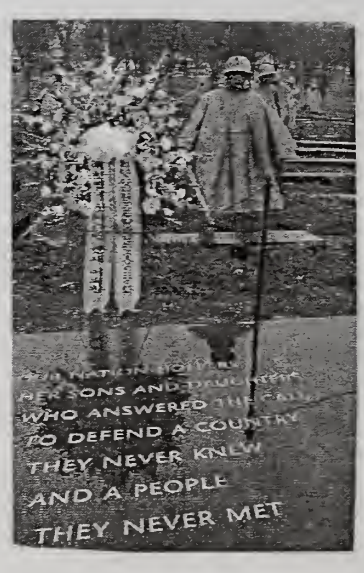
Canton Residents In Armed Service

KILLED IN ACTION

Carrara, Ernest D., 9 Cotter St.
Hannon, Paul, 22 Everett St.
Ferdinand "Nando" Berteletti

Alsop, William. 17 Van Buren St.
Andreotti, Anthony P. 11 Wall St.
Andrus, Joseph M., Turnpike St.
Barss, Ralph R. 60 Everett St.
Beck, Brooks, 2561 Washington St
Berardi, Frankie. 38 Mechanic St.
Berardi, Mario D., Neponset St.
Bernard McQuillen, 236 Wash. St.
Berteletti, Arthur G., 55 Jackson St.
Besse, William G., 365 Washington
Bowker, Billy D. 35 Rockland St.
Britto, James, 17 Capen Place.
Broderick, Emil, 45 Pond St.
Bruce, Francis I. Indian Lane.
Bruns, Arthur A., 12 Revere St.
Bruns, William H. 12 Revere St.
Burke, Thomas J. 160 High St.
Burrell, Edgar C. Indian Lane.
Butler, Joseph, 46 Norfolk St.
Buttrick, George, 5 Valley St.
Caddigan, Donald, Washington St.
Cafasso, Guido A., 21 Wall St.
Callahan, Charles, 70 Norfolk St.
Callahan, Joan. 17 Lewis St.
Caplan, Edwin C., 11 Church St.
Carrara, Richard, 9 Cotter St.
Carroll, Edmund B., 20 Hartwell Place.
Carroll, Franklin F., 22 Hartwell Place.
Carroll, William, 21 Maple St.
Carroll, William E. 20 Hartwell Place.
Cash, Charles W., 634 Chapman St
Caswell, Russell, 22 Revere St.
Ciolfi, Richard 108 Leonard Street
Clark, Howard, 114 Chapman St.
Clayton, Lawrence L., 1410 Washington St.
Clayton, Lawrence L. Jr., 1410 Washington St.
Cleary, Joseph, 267 Pleasant St.
Cleary, Paul J. 267 Pleasant St
Clews, Lawrence, 207 Chapman St
Cole, Henry W., 43 Ames St.
Air Rorce.
Cole, William J. 37 Eliot St.
Colp, Robert Edward. 4 Meyer Terr.
Colsen, Donald, 27 Lewis St.
Conlon, Robert, 288 Washington St.
Cook, Arthur E. Jr., 2207 Washington St.
Cook, George E. 33 Rockland St.
Copley, John, 366 Washington St.
Crossman, Philip A. 20 Sumner St.
Crossman, Stanley, Sumner Ave.
Curran, Paul J. 35 Lewis St.
Curran, Robert. 35 Lewis St.
Dailey, Joseph J., 253 Neponset St
Danahy, Alan R., 1077 Washington St.
Danahy, James E. 75 Pequit St.
Davenport, Paul L. 2720 Washington St.
Davenport, Robert. 2720 Washington Street.
Day, John H., 156 Mechanic St.
DeMayo, Robert, 10 Howard St.
DeYoung, Sidney W. 42 Washington St.
Di Biasio, Joseph Jr., 1238 Washington St.
Digirolamo, Joseph D., 67 Mechanic St.
Digirolamo, Vincent John, 108 Norfolk St.
Doncaster, Robert. 175 Lawrence St.
Dowling, James R., 59 Highland St.
Draper, Charles Dana, Jr. 1422 Washington St.
Dray, Margaret M. Indian Lane.
Dromey, William C., Endicott St.
Dumaine, William Jr., 5 Meyer Terrace.
Dunleavey, Francis, 226 Sherman Ave.
Eagles, Robert F., 36 Sherman Ave.
Epick, Walter M., 16 Howard St.
Ervin, Calvin I. 67 Independence
Fairfield, Alfred, Jr. 16 Wall Ct.
Falla, Robert Allan, 248 Mechanic
Fama, John A. 88 Mechanic St.
Fama, Nunzio S., 88 Mechanic St.
Farrell, Elwin, Wall St.
Farrell, Robert. 16 Traverse Pl.
Fernandez, Herbert T., 33 Rockland St.
Fitzgerald, John F. Randolph St.
Flanagan, John W., 66 Rockland St
Gallant, John B. Jr., 136 Sherman St.
Garnhum, Richard R., 1210 Pleasant St.
Gelpke, Roy F., 432 Pleasant St.
Gibson, Charles, 1757 Washington St.
Gibson, J. Howard 1757 Washington St.
Gilmore, William B., 106 Prospect
Golden, Kenneth J. 140 Ames St.
Army.
Graham, Paul F. 10 Pequit St.
Grover, Thomas 671 Washington St.
Grover William A., 671 Washington St.
Hagan, Charles E., 154 Sherman St.
Hall, James J., 30 Cross St.
Hall, William H. 30 Cross St.
Hammond, Edwin H., 193 Neponset St.
Hammond, Harvey, Jr., 448 Sherman St.
Hanlon, Harold, Jr. 21 Pine St.
Hart, Darl W., formerly of 2736 Washington St.
Healy, Paul W. 25 Mechanic St.
Healy, William F., Jr., 25 Mechanic St.
Henley, Frederick A., 640 Chapman St.
Howard, Robert J., 34 Ponkapoag Way.
Howard, Robert Francis, Pleasant St.
Irving, Joseph E., 36 Pequit St.
Jenkins, Thomas J. 67 Leonard St.
Johnson, Leo Paul. 60 Mechanic Street.
Josephson, Kenneth, 33 Rockland St.
Judge, Allen E. 474 Washington St.
Karas, Edward F. 143 Bolivar St.
Kaye, Maxwell, 473 Washington St.
Keefe, Donald J., 37 Ponkapoag W
Kelleher, Charles L. 189 Rockland St.
Kelley, John J. 33 Wall St.
Kelley, Myles M., 507 Washington
Kelliher, Cornelius J., Jr., 267 Norfolk St.
Kemp, Robert G., formerly of Canton Hospital School.
Kessler, John W., 95 Sherman St.
Kessler, Walter, 95 Sherman St.
Kolbe, Thomas E. 101 Pleasant Cir-
Kreutel, William R. 36 Grand St.
Lawless, John E. 127 Sherman St
Lawrie, Charles J. 54 Draper Lane.
Leaman, Russell H. 50 Draper Lane
Leary, Gerald P., 29 Randolph St.
Leavitt, Eliot, 8 Ames Ave.
Lebarre, Edward Eugene. Formerly of Canton.
Leonard, Paul F. 238 Mechanic St.
Leonard, Thomas J. Jr., 238 Mechanic St.
Levy, Edmund C., 42 Pleasant Circle.
Lewis, Clifford, 13 Mechanic St.
Lomartere, Charles, 33 Pequit St.
Lomartere, John P., 33 Pequit St.
Love, Arlene. 55 Beaumont St.
Lowry, Allen B., 294 Washington St.
Lowry, Charlotte, 437 Washington St.
Lukaszewicz, Edward, 118 Tolman St.
Lyman, Henry, Elm St.
Lynch, John F. 10 Lincoln St.
MacDonald, Joseph F. 25 Beaumont St.
Manning, Waino E. 141 Bolivar St
Martin, Richard K., 33 Randolph St.
Martis, William J. 274 Washington St.
Mayo, Clifford E., 5 Lincoln St.
Mazzarini, Anita. 63 Pequit St.
McCormick, Charles, 147 High St
McCoubrey, George R. 96 Prospect St.
McDermott, Edward, 37 Bolivar St.
McDermott, James, 19 Crane St.
McDonald, Roger P., 236 Washington St.
McDonough, Thomas, 58 Rockland
McGrath, Charlie, 44 Endicott St.
McGrath, Edmund, 15 Kempley St.
McKay, Walter W. Jr., 273 Norfolk St.
McManus, John E., 14 Beal St.
Meninno, Alexander D., 299 Washington St.
Meninno, Anthony, 299 Washington St.
Mennino, Joseph P., 299 Washington St.
Miller, Charles S., 48 Highland St.
Miller, John S., 33 Rockland St.
Missler, John. 84 Pequit St.
Mitchell, Philip K. 2173 Washington St.
Moore, Charles. 178 Mechanic St.
Morandi, Michael R. 156 Walpole St.
Morgan, Robert M., Autumn Circle
Morrison, Duncan A. J., 4 Wall Ct.
Morton, Lawrence D., Dedham St.
Mosley, Francis J., Rev., 20 Leonard St.
Mugford, Richard F. Jr., 44 Lawrence St.
Murphy, Paul. 12a Dunforth St.
Neville, Edward T. Indian Lane.
Newcomb, Harold W., 196 Lawrence St.
Newman, John E., 50 Draper Lane
O'Brien, John E. 82 Lawrence St.
Odell, Perley C., 238 Neponset St.
Odell, Jeane S., 238 Neponset St.
Olden, Gilbert E., Pleasant St.
Olsen, Emil, 16 Revere St.
Palmer, Leroy, 20 Howard St.
Pasquarosa, Michael J. Jr., 27 Lincoln St.
Peahonis, Stephen. 20 Page St.
Peters, George A. Jr., 454 Bolivar
Peters, William H., 454 Bolivar St.
Pettingill, Robert A. 25 Ponkapoag Way.
Philopoulos, George J. 127 Turnpike St.
Piana, Edward, Norfolk Street.
Piona, Albert, 519 Washington St.
Plunkett, Alfred, 842 Washington

Podgurski, Donald. 164 Mechanic St.
Porcaro, George, Neponset St.
Porcare, Joseph, 42 Plymouth St.
Porcaro, Louis, 148 Neponset St.
Powers, John Francis, Jr., 291 Pleasant St.
Powers, Joseph, 162 Neponset St.
Powers, William E. 291 Pleasant Street.
Pozzo, Ronald E. 727 Pleasant St.
Reynolds, Charles V., Jr., 756 Washington St.
Richard, Marcel D., Indian Lane
Riley, William, 213 Messinger St.
Riordan, William O., Lake Road.
Rolfe, Robert E. 79 Prospect St.
Russell, Alexander. 20 Beal St.
Russell, Ellery M. 559 Washington St.
Sablone, Roger F. 21 Mechanic St.
Salvatori, Thomas Edward, 204 Lawrence St.
Sampson, John, 9 Pond View Ave.
Sarra, Richard, 818 Sherman St.
Sfougaris, Peter N. 15 Wall St.
Shannon, David Leo, 1879 Washington
Shaw, Clarrissa M. 41 Independence St.
Simmons, Donald, 110 Bolivar St.
Simpson, Frederick J. York St.
Smith, Charles F., 252 Neponset St
Smith, George A. 88 Lawrence St.
Sokolaukus, Joseph A., 559 Washington St.
Stockard, Albert, York St.
St. George, Albert L., 482 Washington St.
St. George, Arnold. 25 Pine St.
St. George, Wilfred F., 596 Washington St.
St. Laurent, Wilfred H., 1 Ponkapoag Way.
Stone, Arthur, 665 Sherman St.
Strickland, Robert, Randolph St.
Strumski, John, Crane St.
Sweeney, Raymond. 683 Pleasant
Sweeney, Charles, 683 Pleasant St.
Sweeney, William, 683 Pleasant St.
Sykes, John R., 10 Royall St.
Teague, Arthur. Rockland St.
Teague, Henry.
Thompson, James W. 34 Sherman
Titus, David A., 497 Washington St.
Titus, Donald, 497 Washington St.
Toomey, John Edward, 67 Sherman St.
Teague, Henry, 165 Rockland St.
Treanie, John J. Turnpike St.
Treannie, Richard, Turnpike St.
Tumas, Stanley. 245 Neponset St.
Uliano, Francis A. 260 High St.
Uliano, Joseph P. 260 High St.
Untz, Joseph F. 4 Ames Ave.
Vacca, Nicholas, 59 Highland St.
Vega, Manuel S., 289 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford.
Vieira, Joseph J. 62 Bolivar St.
Vieria, Raymond R. 62 Bolivar St.
Vieira, William G., 62 Bolivar St.
Ward, William F., 196 Rockland St.
Wattles, Benjamin. 296 Chapman
Webb, George A., 86 Sherman Ave.
Webster, Donald E. 83 Randolph St.
Webster, Gordon C. 86 Randolph St.
Webster, John A. 23 Leonard St.
Webster, Neil Robert. 83 Randolph St.
Wells, Joseph E., 102 Mechanic St.
Wilson, Robert W. 40 Messinger St
Witt, Richard T., 1847 Washington St.
Wolfgang, Ernest F., 86 Sherman A
Wood, Alfred. 11 Danforth St.
Wood, Arthur, 11 Danforth St.
Wood, Norman 11 Danforth St.
Woodman, John, 433 Walpole St.
Zegalis, Joseph W., 62 Revere St.



MAJOR U.S. COMBAT UNIT CASUALTIES IN KOREA

The units listed below account for 96% of the Americans killed by hostile action in Korea. Wounded in action include only those actually hospitalized.

Unit	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action
2nd Infantry Division	7,094	16,575
1st Marine Division	4,004	25,864
7th Infantry Division	3,905	10,858
1st Cavalry Division	3,811	12,086
24th Infantry Division	3,735	7,395
25th Infantry Division	3,048	10,186
3rd Infantry Division	2,160	7,939
Far East Air Force/5th Air Force	1,200	368
5th Regimental Combat Team	867	3,188
45th Infantry Division	834	3,170
Naval Forces Far East/7th Fleet	458	1,576
187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team	442	1,656
40th Infantry Division	376	1,457
1st Marine Aircraft Wing	258	174

29th RCT was attached to the 24th ID and later assigned to the 27th and 35th Inf. Regts. of the 25th ID. It lost 313 men KIA on July 25-26, 1950 alone. Figures are included above.

In addition to the units listed, 1,432 Army personnel assigned to outfits independent of the divisions and RCTs were also KIA.

Source: *Battle Casualties of the Army,* 30 September 1954 (Office Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Dept. of the Army) and other sources.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Ferdinand Berteletti

By Edward R.Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

In 1999 — in his column *It Seems Like Yesterday* — Ed Lynch called him "Canton's Unknown Soldier."

At that time, town officials were planning a more appropriate memorial for Canton's men and women who had served in the Korean War. (A half century later they continue their dangerous watch over the Demilitarized Zone.)

The original memorial was a rather innocuous plaque at the side of the front steps of the Canton Library. On it were listed the names of two men who were casualties of the war: Paul Hannon and Ernest Cararra.

Missing from the plaque was the name of a third Canton serviceman who died in the Forgotten War. The newly dedicated memorial located at the Eliot School now includes all three names of those killed in the Korean War.

Who was Canton's unknown soldier? Ferdinand "Nando" Berteletti was born in Gattinara, Italy on December 2, 1911. His parents, Attilio and Delfina Berteletti, immigrated to the U.S. in 1920 when Nando was 9. They settled at 261 Neponset St. in Canton. Three other siblings of Attilio also came to America: Carlo in 1906, Firmino in 1922 and Maria in 1907. Two of the families settled in Canton, and the other two in Coalgate, Indian Territory, which later became the 46th state in the Union: Oklahoma.

Lee Berteletti of High Street is the sole surviving member of the four immigrant families. He is a spry, 92-year-old gentleman who recalls vividly all the significant events from those early years. When he was 9, he and his parents returned to Italy. Although born in Coalgate in 1910, Lee had a difficult time getting back to the U.S. — due to his pending compulsory induction into the Italian military.

Ferdinand "Nando" Berteletti

In 1929, with the assistance of the American consulate officer in Turin, Lee obtained a passport and succeeded in crossing the frontier into France for his voyage back to the States. For the past 72 years, Lee has lived in Canton. His sister, Josephine Marcone Salemme, and his cousin, Adeline Caramellino, set up residences in Canton as well.

Lee Berteletti recalls that he and his cousin Nando were so close in age, build, complexion and eye coloring, they often were mistaken for one another. Both struggled to maintain steady employment during the Great Depression.

In the mid 1930s, Nando married Gertrude Paioni from Mansfield. Lee married Rena Sacco of Canton.

But their lives took different paths at the onset of WWII. Lee remained at a defense job in Hyde Park, and Nando was inducted into the Army in 1942.

Nando Berteletti completed basic training and soon found himself in Europe, where he took part in the campaigns of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. In 1945 Nando received the tragic news of his wife's death. His homecoming a year later was a somber conclusion to his WWII experience.

After a short civilian interlude — during which Nando found it difficult to readjust — he re-enlisted in the Army. Cpl. Berteletti did a tour of occupation duty in Germany, and in 1950 he was assigned to a unit in Japan. The Korean War broke out in June of 1950.

Cpl. Berteletti had been a front line infantryman during WWII. At age 40, he was guarding North Korean and Chinese prisoners of war. The inherent dangers of war exist in every military occupation. On February 3, 1951 he was shot and killed.

His parents had left 47 Norfolk St. in 1937 and returned to Gattinara. When notified of their son's death by the War Department, they requested that his body be sent to Italy for burial. The EXIRA traveled from Japan to Genoa, where Cpl. Berteletti's body was met by the American Consul and an Honor Guard from both nations. The accompanying photo shows an American Army M/Sgt., a local priest and the Honor Guard attending the flag-draped coffin at dockside.

On Sunday, June 11, 1951 Nando Berteletti was buried from St. Peter's Church in Gattinara — the same church where he had been baptized as an infant. The cortege to the cemetery included more than 2500 local citizens.

***

On Columbus Day, October 12, 2000, George Berteletti (no relation), Carlo "Zuz" Zanazzo and I were on separate vacations in Italy. Zuz is a former Canton native and a retired Air Force M/Sgt. who now resides with his family in North Pole, Alaska. The three of us met for an informal ceremony at the cemetery in Gattinara. There we placed a Korean War veteran plaque and an American flag over Nando Berteletti's grave. The ceremonial significance was to honor a fallen comrade. It also served as a symbolic retracement of the paths taken by millions of European immigrants to America since October 12, 1492.

The Town of Canton will remember Cpl. Ferdinand Berteletti on Wednesday, September 25, 2002, when a commemorative sign will be dedicated in his name at the corner of Norfolk and High Streets.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Ernest Carrara

By Edward R. Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

"Off we go into the wild blue yonder
Flying high into the sun
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer
Gave us wings ever to soar"
***

The Air Force Song could have been composed with him in mind — such was his love of flying.

Every aspect of Ernest Carrara's life was centered on flying. His sister, Dorothy, says Ernie thought of little else; his brother-in-law, Bob Pesaturo, remembers that Ernie felt safer in a plane than in an auto; his close friend, Joe Romanelli, even today thinks of him as a pilot above all else.

His parents were Domenic and Carmela Carrara. Domenic originally had emigrated in 1904 from the town of Pettorano in the Abruzzi section of Italy. When his wife died at age 24, Domenic was left with three young daughters, Edith, Marie and Eleanor. In time, he re-married, to Carmela Cocca. Their first child was Ernest, who was born on January 7, 1925. Two more children, Dorothy and Richard, completed the Carrara family. Of the three senior sisters, Eleanor Dente is deceased; Marie Slaney, now 89 years of age, resides in Stoughton and Eleanor Uliano, 87 years old, lives in Sharon.

Ernest Carrara

Ernie attended St. John's Grammar and then St. John's High School. The high school program consisted of three years of business classes. In 2000, Ernest Carrara was awarded a posthumous four-year high school diploma under the Operation Recognition Program. The criteria for the award to all the recipients centered on the fact that they had interrupted their schooling to answer their country's call during the dark days of WWII.

In Ernie's boyhood years, the Carrara family lived at 2 Traverse Street. Ernie's close friend, Joe Romanelli, says they used Charlie Cushman's nearby field and the general area where Curtis Road now is located for their play. The adjoining Forge Pond served as the skating and hockey rink. Joe remembers that Ernie had some other interests. He loved to cook and was before his time in considering the possibilities of an enterprise involving the pizza business.

Above all, however, he loved flying. Bob Pesaturo notes that Ernie's close friends were Mike Callanan, Paul Duby, Phil Black, John Olson, Joe Romanelli and himself.

Ernie was employed at the Plymouth Rubber Co. for a short time before his entry into the Army Air Corps on April 16, 1943. He took his training at Scott Field in Illinois. After 20 weeks, Pvt. Carrara received his certification as a radio operator and mechanic. He then joined the 60th Troop Carrier Groups of the 12th Army Air Force in Europe. The unit went on to participate in the campaigns of North Africa, North Apennines and Po Valley, for which he received two Bronze Service Stars, as well as other citations and ribbons.

Sgt. Carrara flew in "C-47 transports, which made perilous flights delivering men and material throughout the war zone. The 60th Troop Carrier was cited for its bravery, skill and gallantry in both day and night flights, as well as forward landings on makeshift fields behind enemy lines.

On November 17, 1945, after almost three years of hazardous duty, Sgt. Carrara returned to the USA for discharge at Fort Devens.

Airways School of Flying, where n received his pilot's license. O.. January 15, 1951 — seven months after the start of the Korean "police action" — the U.S. Air Force recalled Sgt.. Carrara to duty. He reported to Fort Dix, NJ and then to Sewart Air Force Base, TN. His younger brother, Richard, also had joined the Air Force in 1950. Fortunately, Richard completed his military service without injury and then came home to become a highly successful captain of industry in three companies, including his own. Richard shares his brother's interest and has learned to fly.

In July 1951 Sgt. Carrara became part of the 50th Troop Carrier Squadron in the Far East. While on a mission on September 17, 1951, his plane was lost on a mountaintop. All aboard were killed.

Sgt. Ernest Carrara became the first Korean War casualty from Canton. The war claimed two more Canton men before the uneasy armistice of July 27, 1953.

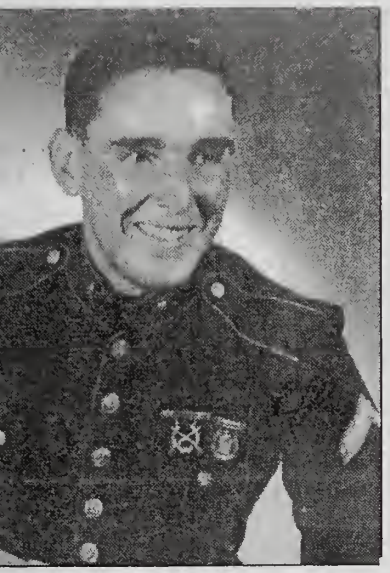
The casualties from the Korean War, in terms of front line action, exceeded the percentages of any American war in the 20th century: one out of ten. In a strange coincidence, another Korean War casualty was 2nd Lt. Jack Carrara from Fairfield, California, who was also killed in a bomber crash in 1951 when his plane from Kodena Air Base in Okinawa went down near Taem-dong, South Korea.

For his faithful and courageous service and participation in the Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive Campaign, Sgt. Ernest Carrara was awarded the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the UN Service Medal and Aviation Badge.

In March 1952 Sgt. Carrara's body was returned to Canton for a military funeral, preceded by a Mass at St John's Church. In his abbreviated life, he did "go off into the wild blue yonder, flying high into the sun," and he did it for his country in two wars.

The Town of Canton will remember Sgt. Ernest Carrara at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 as a true Fallen Hero when the corner of Ames Avenue and Washington Street will be dedicated in his honor.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Paul Hannon



Paul Hannon

Paul Hannon was killed defending his country 50 years ago this coming December.

The passage of time, however, has not dimmed the vivid and affectionate memories of those who knew him. When friends and family members are asked about him, the superlatives flow — and so do the tears. His brother, Jim, younger than him by a year, describes him "as the nicest guy you ever met. He was loved and admired by many. Even though we were close in age, he was more of a father figure than a big brother."

Paul's younger sister, Jane Hannon Tardanico, writes: "To me, my brother Paul was always 'bigger than life.' Often my surrogate father, he was my idol and hero long before his death. He exemplified the highest of moral values. I believe it was after his freshman year in college he made the personal decision to leave the University of New Hampshire to join the Marine Corps to do his part to fight communism.

"Paul was what every sister wishes for in a 'big brother.' He cared deeply for his family and was a superb role model. My brother taught me many things, such as how to ride a bike, to make sure I brushed my teeth, to love reading and to do my homework well. Most of all, Paul taught me the importance of doing everything in life to the best of my ability. I have tried to this day to follow his instruction.

"Difficult to believe that although we approach the fiftieth anniversary of Paul's death that the pain and the feeling of loss are still so real. My own loss of a sibling does at least help me to connect with the millions of people who have suffered the loss of a family member or good friend in war throughout time."

Paul was born on August 1, 1932 to James and Beatrice (Paul) Hannon of 22 Everett Street. Paul's father was a wool broker and traveled extensively in the west, inspecting sheep for the quality of their wool. He was recognized as an expert appraiser with sound judgment.

Paul went to the Revere and Eliot schools and then to Canton High School with the Class of 1950. An astonishingly good-looking young man, he was an outstanding athlete and well liked. He was an offensive and defensive end on the football team, co-captain of the undefeated 1949 team and a smooth power-hitting left-handed baseball player.

Tony Andreotti, who knew Paul as a friend and fellow player in both sports, describes him as Canton's version of the "Splendid Splinter," a tall lanky kid who was a pure hitter. That his peers found him outstanding is witnessed by the accolades in his high school year book: *"Most Popular, Best Looking, Most Athletic, Best Personality, tall, dark and handsome, idol of the girls, has a special place in our hearts, admired by all, good natured Paul."*

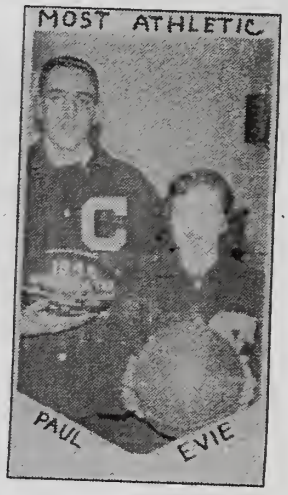
It would be easy for such praise to go to one's head, but not in Paul's case. He is described as being a kind and gentle person without a big ego. Tony Andreotti notes that he was a religious person, and around him no one would use profane or off-color language. He had many friends, including Paul Converse, Charlie McGrath, Harry Josephson, and the Mitchell brothers, Phil and Sam.

He graduated Canton High School in June 1950, a month in which world history changed with the invasion of South Korea by the North. Paul had a scholarship from the University of New Hampshire, where he was scheduled to play football for Coach "Chief" Boston. Paul did well in his studies and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He had completed his

freshman year and the first semester of his sophomore year when he decided to enlist in the Marines.

Paul could have taken advantage of a student deferment to postpone service and finish college. He chose, however, to serve his country and joined a special unit sponsored by Mayor John B. Hynes. The recruits were sworn in at the Old City Hall in Boston on February 1, 1952. He was sent to Parris Island for basic training, after which he came home on a short leave and was dazzling in his dress blue uniform.

He received advanced training at Camp Pendleton in California and from there was assigned to the First Marine Division in Korea.



At the time, heavy fighting was still going on and armistice talks were not imminent.

The ironies of timing came into play in Paul's case. In November 1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected President and promised to go to Korea to end the war. He could not take office until January 1953, and shortly thereafter peace talks began.

Tragically, Paul Hannon was killed in action from a missile wound to the head on December 16, 1952 on Hill #201 at Chang-dam, Korea. He was brought home, and after a mass at St. John's was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on February 21, 1953.

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A memorial sign for Corporal Paul J. Hannon will be dedicated at the corner of Chapman and Everett Streets on Wednesday October 9 at 2 p.m.

Town Of Canton, MA
Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Era Veterans (includes service from Feb. 1,1955 to May 7, 1975)

ALDRICH, DOUGLAS	BRIGHT, PETER	CONTOIS, ARTHUR
ALDRICH, DAVID	BROOKS, JEROME	CORBETT, JAMES
ALLEN, JAMES	BROUSSARD, ALLEN	CORBETT, ANTHONY
AMBROCEO, WILLIAM	BROWN, JAMES	CORREIA, WILLIAM
AMBROCEO, JAMES	BROWN, DAVID	CORREY, DAVIS
ANDERSON, JOHN	BROWN, EDWARD	COUGLE, FREDERICK
ANDREWS, KENNETH	BROWN, ROBERT	CROFT, DOUGLAS
ANDRUS, JOSEPH	BROWN, PETER	CROWLEY, PAUL
ANGINO, PHILIP	BRUUS, ARTHUR	CROWLEY, JOSEPH
ANTONIA, FREDERICK	BRYANT, JOSEPH	CULLEN, MICHAEL
APREA, MICHAEL	BRYANT, PAUL	CUMMINGS, MATTHEW
ARAUJO, RUDOLPH	BUDLONG, MICHAEL	CURRIER, PAUL
ARMANDO, JOHN	BURNS, THOMAS	CURTIS, DAVID
BAILEY, RAYMOND	BUTLER, JAMES	DALESSIO, JOHN
BAILEY, MARK	BUTLER, THOMAS	DAMON, DENNIS
BAINTON, KRIS	BUTTERWORTH, RICHARD	DAMON, FRANCIS
BALBONI, CHARLES	BUZZELL, JAMES	DANA, RICHARD
BANKS, VINCENT	CADDIGAN, DONALD	DANAHY, JAMES
BANNISTER, RICHARD	CALLAHAN, RICHARD	DARLING, RONALD
BANTICK, ROBERT	CAMPIA, KENNETH	DARLING, FREDERICK
BARONAS, JOHN	CARADONNA, CHARLES	DARRELL, GEORGE
BARONAS, ANTHONY	CARCO, RICHARD	DEAN, JAMES
BARSS, JOSEPH	CARMICHAEL, WILLIAM	DEANE, RICHARD
BARSS, RALPH	CARR, GEORGE	DEGREGORIO, RALPH
BASLOCK, JAMES	CARROLL, ROBERT	DELELLIS, PETER
BATES, ROGER	CARROLL, JOHN	DENNIS, JAMES
BEAL, ROBERT	CARTER, DANIEL	DENNISON, ROBERT
BECK, FRANCIS	CASEY, WILLIAM	DEPALMA, CARL
BECKER, OLIVER	CASEY, STEPHEN	DEVOE, SCOTT
BECKER, ROBERT	CHANDLER, JOHN	DEVOLL, CABOT
BEDARD, RONALD	CHARLAND, WILLIAM	DIFELICE, MICHAEL
BEDDINGTON, GERARD	CITRANO, ALFRED	DIFELICE, ROBERT
BELL, PAUL	CLARK, JOHN	DIFELICE, JOSEPH
BEMBERY, WILLIAM	CLINTON, WAYNE	DLOTT, JASON
BENKART, RAYMOND	COFFIN, CHARLES	DODD, WILLIAM
BERARDI, JOSEPH	COFFIN, WILLIAM	DOHERTY, RICHARD
BERARDI, EDWARD	COLEMAN, PETER	DONATO, NICHOLAS
BERTELETTI, PETER	COLETTI, GERALD	DONCASTER, ROBERT
BERTELETTI, MICHAEL	COLLINS, STEPHEN	DONLAN, THOMAS
BERTONE, ANTHONY	COLLINS, EDWARD	DONOVAN, HENRY
BESSE, RICHARD	COLSON, JOHN	DOODY, RICHARD
BLATT, THOMAS	COLSON, EDMUND	DOODY, WILLIAM
BLOMSTROM, RONALD	COMER, KEVIN	DOODY, GEORGE
BLOMSTROM, PAUL	CONNOLLY, JAMES	DRAPER, JOHN
BLONDELL, JON	CONNOLLY, STEPHEN	DRISCOLL, DAVID
BONVIE, BENJAMIN	CONNOR, WILLIAM	DUDLEY, CHARLES
BOREHAM, NEIL	CONNORS, BERNARD	DUDLEY, ROBERT
BOUGAS, ARTHUR	CONOPKA, STEPHEN	DUGAN, WILLIAM
BOYCE, WILLIAM	CONRAD, NORMAN	DUGANIERO, DOMINIC
BRENNAN, WILLIAM	CONSALVO, SILVIO	DUNLEAVEY, PHILIP
BRICKMAN, JACOB	CONTOIS, DONALD	DUNLEAVEY, JOHN
BRIGGS, JAMES	CONTOIS, DAVID	DUNN, DANIEL

Town Of Canton, MA
Vietnam Veterans

DUNN, MICHAEL	GILSON, RICHARD	IONELLI, JOHN
DURKEE, DENNIS	GLADSTONE, FREDERICK	IRELAND, BRUCE
DUZAN, WARREN	GORMAN, RICHARD	IRWIN, HAROLD
DWYER, THOMAS	GORMAN, HAVEN	JACKSON, CHAUNCEY
DWYER, PETER	GORTON, KENNETH	JOHNSON, WILLIAM
ECKLER, RICHARD	GRANTHAM, JOHN	JOHNSON, DONALD
EISENHAUER, ALLAN	GRAVES, EARLE	JOHNSON, RUSSELL
ENDICOTT, CHARLES	GREEN, THOMAS	JORDAN, CHARLES
ESTABROOK, LORNE	GROVER, DAVID	JORGENSEN, JOHN
FAIR, JAMES	GUINEY, BARTHOLOMEW	JOSEPHSON, HARRY
FALCO, CARMEN	GUYETTE, DAVID	JOYCE, JAMES
FALCO, ANTONIO	HAGGETT, PAUL	JUDGE, JOSEPH
FALLON, BERNARD	HAINES, KEVIN	KEIF, DAVID
FAMA, NUNZIO	HALE, DONALD	KELLEHER, WILLIAM
FARRELL, JAMES	HALE, JOSEPH	KELLEHER, JOSEPH
FARRELL, FREDERICK	HALL, ROGER	KELLEY, STEPHEN
FARRINGTON, THOMAS	HALLEY, ROBERT	KELLIHER, JOSEPH
FAY, ROBERT	HALLORAN, ROBERT	KELLIHER, DANIEL
FAY, PAUL	HAMM, JOHN	KELLY, MARK
FEWORE, CHARLES	HANLON, EDMUND	KELLY, KEVIN
FIELDS, ALLAN	HANLON, EDWARD	KELLY, DONALD
FISCHER, DONALD	HANNON, THOMAS	KELSON, DAVID
FISHER, BARRY	HANSEN, PETER	KENNEY, PETER
FITZGERALD, GLENN	HARDING, WILLIAM	KESSLER, WALTER
FITZPATRICK, RICHARD	HARRIMAN, ALFRED	KESSLER, JOSEPH
FLANAGAN, THOMAS	HARRIS, ROBERT	KINCADE, DAVID
FLINT, RICHARD	HARRIS, JOHN	KINCADE, MARK
FOLEY, BERNARD	HAY, KENNETH	KING, HERBERT
FORHAN, HAROLD	HAY, DOUGLAS	KNOCHIN, JOSEPH
FORSYTH, DONALD	HAYES, JAMES	KNOWLES, ALLEN
FORSYTH, WILLIAM	HAYWARD, TIMOTHY	KOBS, FREDERICK
FORSYTH, JAMES	HEALEY, ROBERT	KOLBE, THOMAS
FRADKIN, RONALD	HEALEY, RONALD	KOSH, ROBERT
FREEDMAN, ROBERT	HEGGIE, JAMES	KOSTECKI, STEPHEN
FREIDAY, DAVID	HENNESSY, JAMES	KOYLION, EUGENE
GAINES, LAWTON	HERBERT, FREDRICK	LAFOREST, NORMAN
GALLAGHER, BRUCE	HERMANSON, BRADLEY	LAGSDIN, JOHN
GALLIGAN, JOSEPH	HERRON, JOHN	LALLY, JOHN
GALLIVAN, VINCENT	HETU, LIONEL	LAMBIASE, FRANCESCO
GALLIVAN, JAMES	HEWITT, VINCENT	LANE, STEPHEN
GALVIN, THOMAS	HILTON, JAMES	LANGILL, LEONARD
GALVIN, JOHN	HOLT, RICHARD	LANGILLE, IRWIN
GALVIN, DONALD	HOOD, RICHARD	LARSON, CARL
GASPAROTTO, JOHN	HOWARD, GLENN	LEAHY, JOHN
GATES, STEPHEN	HUFF, BRADBURY	LEARY, ALAN
GAVIN, EDWARD	HUGHES, JOSEPH	LEARY, BRIAN
GAVIN, PHILIP	HUGHES, EDMUND	LEARY, CLEMENT
GAY, RICHARD	HUGHES, STEPHEN	LEATHERS, DAVID
GENNELLY, FRED	HUGHES, RICHARD	LEHAN, ESWARD
GIANNINI, FRANCES	IHLENBURG, FREDERICK	LENHART, WILLIAM
GIFFORD, GORDON	INDORATO, JAMES	LENHART, CHRISTOPHER
GILLIS, JAMES	INGEMI, DOMINIC	LENHART, JOHN

Town Of Canton, MA
Vietnam Veterans

LEONARD, JOSEPH	MCPHERSON, WILLIAM	OUELLETTE, MICHAEL
LEONARD, EDWARD	MCPHERSON, VINCENT	PAGLIOCCO, ANGELO
LERNER, JOEL	MCWILLIAMS, PETER	PARKER, ROBERT
LEWIS, RICHARD	MELLON, JOSEPH	PARSONS, RICHARD
LIND, RALPH	MENDES, JOHN	PASQUAROSA, WARDELL
LISANSKY, GERALD	MENINNO, ALBERT	PASQUAROSA, RONALD
LOGAN, STEPHEN	MENINNO, JOSEPH	PATTERSON, JERRY
LORDAN, DANIEL	MESSLER, GREGORY	PEACH, ARTHUR
LORIZIO, VINCENT	MEYER, JOHN	PECHOMIS, STEFAHOS
LOUGHLIN, JOHN	MICCHELLI, JOSEPH	PEREZ, CHARLOTTE
LOUGHRAN, LAWRENCE	MILEY, DAVID	PERRI, JOHN
LUKAS, VINCENT	MILLAR, WILLIAM	PERRY, PAUL
LYNCH, ROBERT	MINICHIELLI, ROBERT	PHAUP, KERRY
LYNE, THOMAS	MITCHELL, ROBERT	PHILLIPS, GERALD
MACARI, JOSEPH	MITCHELL, MICHAEL	PICKERING, CARLTON
MACCORMACK, ROBERT	MITCHELL, ROBERT	PIONA, CHARLES
MACDONALD, ROBERT	MOBERGER, RICHARD	PITCHER, ELTON
MACDONALD, BENJAMIN	MOODY, GEORGE	PLANT, ALAN
MACKINNON, CHARLES	MOSS, CHARLES	PODGURSKI, JAMES
MACLELLAN, ARTHUR	MULLER, CHARLES	PODGURSKI, PAUL
MACPHAIL, RICHARD	MULLIGAN, GEORGE	POPE, RICHARD
MAGGELET, THEODORE	MULLIGAN, WILLIAM	POWER, MICHAEL
MAGGELET, DANIEL	MULLIGAN, PAUL	POWERS, STEVEN
MAGUIRE, CAROLE	MURPHY, BRUCE	POWERS, RICHARD
MAHER, JOHN	MURPHY, JAMES	POWERS, PHILIP
MAHONEY, ROBERT	MURRAY, FRANCIS	POWERS, LAWRENCE
MANNING, KEVIN	MURRAY, THOMAS	POWERS, EDWARD
MANNING, THOMAS	NAJJAR, DENNIS	PURDIE, WILLIAM
MARATHAS, PAUL	NAPOLITANO, ALDO	PYE, SANDRA
MARATHAS, WILLIAM	NARDELLI, JOSEPH	PYWELL, HOWARD
MARCHAND, LEO	NASHAWATY, GEORGE	QUIN, THOMAS
MARTIN, PAUL	NASHAWATY, DAVID	QUINN, DAVID
MARTIN, DENNIS	NEEDHAM, RAYMOND	QUINN, JAMES
MARTIN, LOUIS	NICHOLS, HENRY	RAFFERTY, VINCENT
MARTIN, JOSEPH	NICKERSON, JAMES	RAWDING, RUSSELL
MATTA, BRUCE	NOLEN, PETER	RAYNER, ROY
MAYHEW, MERTON	NOLL, ROBERT	REGAN, ROBERT
MAYHEW, ROBERT	OBRIEN, EUGENE	RENAUD, LOUIS
MAYO, RICHARD	OBRIEN, WILLIAM	RENAUD, RICHARD
MCARDLE, RONALD	O'BRIEN, JAMES	RENAUD, PETER
MCATAMNEY, JAMES	ODONNELL, LEO	RESCA, LOUIS
MCCARTHY, DANIEL	OHARA, PAUL	REYNOLDS, JOHN
MCCARTHY, WILLIAM	OHARA, KEVIN	ROACH, ROBERT
MCCORMICK, CHARLES	OKEEFE, DAVID	ROCHE, WILLIAM
MCCORMICK, PAUL	OLES, KENNETH	RODRIGUES, FRANCIS
MCCORMICK, CHARLES	OLOUGHLIN, THOMAS	ROE, PAUL
MCDEVITT, JAMES	OLOUGHLIN, MICHAEL	ROMANO, ANTHONY
MCGILLVEARY, ROBERT	ONEIL, ROBERT	ROMSEY, CHARLES
MCGINNESS, FRANCIS	ONEIL, ARTHUR	RONALD, DOUGLAS
MCGLOIN, ROGER	ONEILL, JAMES	RONAYNE, PAUL
MCKENNA, ALFRED	ONEILL, PAUL	RUDMAN, LEON
MCLAUGHLIN, JOHN	OSHEA, ROBERT	RUSSELL, RICHARD

Town Of Canton, MA
Vietnam Veterans

RYLEY, ROBERT	THOMPSON, KEVIN	WOOD, ROBERT
SACCO, DONALD	THORNHILL, JOHN	WOOD, RUSSELL
SALVATORI, RONALD	THORNTON, CHARLES	WOOD, FREDERICK
SCHEFEY, LEIGHTON	THORNTON, PAUL	WOOD, JAMES
SCHOENE, JUERGEN	TOCKMAN, RONALD	WURZEL, JOSEPH
SCHOFIELD, DAVID	TOLIAS, STEPHEN	WYMAN, ROBERT
SCOTT, THOMAS	TORRES, BERNICE	WYMAN, GREGORY
SEARLE, FRANCIS	TRIOLO, SANTO	YEOMANS, DONALD
SEARS, JAMES	TRUCZINSKAS, MARK	YOST, DONALD
SHAUGHNESSY, WALTER	TRUCZINSKAS, MICHAEL	YOUNG, WILLIAM
SHEA, PAUL	TURNER, ARTHUR	YOUNG, CARL
SHEEHAN, JOSEPH	TURNER, JAMES	YOUNG, JR., HENRY
SHEEHAN, JAMES	TYRELL, EDWARD	ZAMARRIPA, MARY
SIEBERG, RICHARD	VALIN, VINCENT	ZANIBONI, DAVID
SKELLY, MICHAEL	VALIQUETTE, JOHN	ZANIBONI, JOHN
SLOAN, PAUL	VIPS, WALTER	ZEBROWSKI, ALBERT
SLOAN, DAVID	VIPS, ARNOLD	ZOPPA, JOSEPH
SMAIL, KENNETH	WAGNER, ROBERT	
SMITH, DAVID	WALKER, THOMAS	
SMITH, ROBERT	WALKER, JAMES	
SMITH, THOMAS	WALSH, JAMES	
SNYDER, JOHN	WARD, HUGH	
SOAVE, JOHN	WARS, HENRY	
SOULE, JOHN	WAYBURN, RONALD	
SOUTHWOOD, JAMES	WEBSTER, ARTHUR	
SPEAR, CHARLES	WECKBACHER, ALBERT	
SPENCE, DOUGLAS	WECKESSER, FRANK	
SPINTIG, ROBERT	WEDGE, WILLIAM	
SPRAGUE, PHILLIP	WEINER, IRVING	
SPROWL, DONALD	WEIR, JAMES	
STAITI, MICHELE	WEITZ, PAUL	
STOCKUS, ARTHUR	WESLEY, GARY	
STOCKUS, PETER	WEST, RICHARD	
STODDARD, WALLACE	WHELAN, JOHN	
STONE, JOHN	WHELAN, RICHARD	
STORM, RICHARD	WHIDDEN, GARY	
STORME, DANIEL	WHITE, RICHARD	
STRUMSKI, JOSEPH	WHITE, ALFRED	
SULLIVAN, LEO	WHITE, BRUCE	
SULLIVAN, STEPHEN	WHITWORTH, THOMAS	
SULLIVAN, EDWARD	WIDBERG, EDWARD	
SYKES, CHARLES	WIDBERG, ARTHUR	
TABER, ROBERT	WIEDERHOLD, JOHN	
TAILLON, GILBERT	WIEDERHOLD, WILLIAM	
TALBOTT, JESS	WIEDERHOLD, PAUL	
TARDANICO, CHARLES	WILLIAMS, ROBERT	
TAYLOR, JAMES	WILLIAMS, DONALD	
TEAGUE, ANDREW	WILLIAMS, EDWARD	
TEAGUE, RICHARD	WILLIAMS, PETER	
TEAGUE, FLOYD	WITT, CARL	
TEAGUE, ROBERT	WITT, ROBERT	
THOMAS, DAVID	WOLFE, JAMES	

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Antonio Falco

By Edward R.Piana
Special to the *Citizen*

Antonio Falco

Looking back to the 1960s and 70s, the prevailing overriding feeling on the homefront was "will it ever end!"

Now, dimmed by the passage of time, the collective American recollection of the Vietnam War may not go beyond the conflict's duration, the policy controversies and the cost in money, prestige and above all, in human life. For the victims and their families, the aftermath of the war will remain forever.

As a prelude to the *Fallen Hero* program for Canton Vietnam casualties, it may be of some value to reflect on the historical background of that war.

No exact date can be affixed for the beginning of the war. Its roots go back to the days of colonialism when France controlled all of Indochina from the 1800s to 1954, at which time the Vietnamese defeated the French. President Truman had defined his Truman Doctrine for the preservation of Western Europe against the Soviet threat. He extended the doctrine to cover Southeast Asia as well. Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson, during their respective terms in office, supported that same doctrine completely. President Eisenhower believed Asia would fall into the Communist camp like a "row of dominoes." He dispatched 900 American military advisors to South Vietnam. President Kennedy increased the number of advisors to 18,500.

Internal conflicts within the South Vietnam regime reached a climax three weeks before President Kennedy's assassination when President Diem and his brother Nhu were killed during a coup d'etat by South Vietnamese generals — some claim with CIA involvement. When North Vietnamese gunboats attacked two American destroyers, President Johnson obtained a Congressional resolution for direct American participation in the civil war. Other Asian allies also contributed considerable ground troops to the 550,000 American forces who eventually were fighting there by 1969.

President Johnson chose not to run for re-election in 1968 as a direct result of the discontent at home over the war. In spite of his domestic policy successes, the war drove him out of office. President Nixon came into office with a plan for Vietnamization that involved the training and takeover of all military operations by the Vietnamese and the withdrawal of American forces. By mid-1970, American troops were gone — but not before an expansion of the war with neighboring Cambodia to clean out enemy forces and supplies from what had been their safe sanctuary. That invasion brought on massive protests at home, demonstrations on campuses and the Kent State shootings by the Ohio National Guard.

Finally, in 1973, a cease-fire was arranged and the last American military left Vietnam. President Ford and Congress, however, continued reduced financial aid to the South Vietnamese government. In 1975 the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong renewed the war and quickly overcame the South Vietnamese, thus ending the war.

Six American presidents had anguished over the Vietnam problem, and in the end they had not prevented the unification under the Communists. The American public was disillusioned, dispirited, disgusted and divided, but above all, overwhelmingly saddened yet relieved. The American military shared some of those feelings — plus a sense of betrayal and abandonment. The veterans who came home individually suffered most of those symptoms, and to this day many have not been able to readjust nor to accept. The moral questions raised by the war and its ultimate conclusion have remained particularly distressing to the families of those American combatants who lost their lives in the conflict and for those who came home with mental and physical scars from the war.

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One of Canton's *Fallen Heroes* from the Vietnam War was Antonio Falco, who lived at 7 Park Drive. He was the youngest of seven siblings.

Antonio's mother, Maria Frontino, was born in New York; however, when she was a child, due to the Depression, her immigrant parents returned to San Ferdinando in the Province of Foggia, Italy. She married Angelo Falco and raised a family of one daughter and six sons. In 1954, as a result of Maria Falco's American citizenship, the entire family was able to return to the USA. The oldest child, Anna, was 16, and the youngest, Antonio was 4.

The father, Angelo, worked hard as an upholsterer in South Boston and then in Brockton. The family purchased an affordable two-family home in Roxbury. Years later, when Anna married Sal Brancaccio, a Korean War veteran, she bought a three- family residence in Dorchester where everyone moved.

During the Vietnam War, Sal, Carmen and Ralph served in the U.S.Army. Young Antonio completed grammar school at the Davis School in Dorchester. By then, this happy, close family, which included many branches of cousins, moved to Canton

— again in close proximity of one another.

Antonio entered Canton High School, but after his freshman year, he returned to Dorchester for his schooling. "Antonio was a wonderful kid who loved the city and his close pals there," his brother, Ralph, recalls. "He never quite adjusted to suburban life in Canton. All his friends were joining the service during the Vietnam War, and he decided to enlist in the Marines. I was in the Army at the time. I tried to talk him out of enlisting and to wait until he was more mature. He was determined to volunteer. My parents signed, giving their permission. Antonio was inducted in February 1968."

One morning, shortly after Ralph Falco had been discharged from the Army, he drove into the family driveway and knew immediately that a calamity had struck the Falco family. A chaplain and U.S. Marine Corps officer were at the family door.

Antonio Falco was a member of the 1st Marine Division Engineer Battalion stationed in Vietnam. He had been there only eight months when he was killed on April 30, 1969. He had been operating a bulldozer in a landing strip clearing operation at Da Nang. The bulldozer detonated a land mine.

His body was returned for a Mass at St. John's Church on May 12, 1969, followed by interment at St. Michael's Cemetery in Forest Hills. Antonio was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously at a Weymouth Naval Air Station ceremony.

The immediate family has scattered to Easton, where Joseph and Carmen now reside, and to Rockland, where Sal and Vincent live. Anna lost her husband five years ago and now makes her home with her two sons in Las Vegas, where they own and operate a home drapery business. In addition to Ralph Falco, other cousins still live in Canton and nearby Stoughton.

Sister, Anna Brancaccio, speaks with pride and without bitterness over the loss of her 18-year-old brother in the controversial war. "My parents and family were devastated, but they never wavered from their sincere devotion to America, the land of unmatched opportunity for all of us," she says. "It was an unwelcome but unavoidable sacrifice in this wonderful country".

Pfc. Antonio Falco will receive his *Fallen Hero* sign dedication at the Corner of Capper and Park Drives on Wednesday, October 23 at 2p.m.

It Seems Like Yesterday By Ed Lynch

Town will honor *Fallen Hero* Rudolph E. Araujo

Rudolph "Rudy" Araujo never lived to see his unborn daughter or to celebrate his first Christmas with his new bride. He was the last Canton man to give up his life in the military service of his country.

Rudy was the son of Polie and Ida (Fernandes) Araujo. Polie was a veteran of World War II and had served in the Army in the South Pacific for 34 months. Rudy was born July 25, 1940 in the Sagamore section of Bourne. In time, he would have four brothers: John, Jose, James and Christian. The family moved to Canton where the father was employed at the Plymouth Rubber Company. The Araujos lived at 480 Washington Street in an apartment over White's Market near the corner of Neponset Street.

Rudolph E. Araujo

Rudy was educated in schools in Bourne and Canton and graduated from Norwood High School. After high school, he worked for a time at the Plymouth Rubber Company.

He had mechanical aptitude and completed courses in auto repair at the General Motors Training Center in Dedham. He was then able to secure employment as a mechanic at Tom Connolly Pontiac in Norwood.

In April 1967 he joined the Army to serve his country during the Vietnam conflict and to pursue his interest in auto mechanics. He did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina before going on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was classified as an automotive repair specialist. He went on to do tours of duty both in Germany and Vietnam and advanced to the rank of Specialist 5 — equivalent to that of Sergeant.

Although his enlistment period would be up in April 1970, Rudy decided to re-enlist early. He came home from Vietnam on re-enlistment leave for Thanksgiving — and to marry Marie Gunderway of Norwell. The wedding took place on December 1, 1969, and Rudy had orders to return to Vietnam for a second tour.

Rudy lost his life on December 21, 1969 in Bihn Doung Province, III Corps Tactical Zone. While going to the aid of a disabled vehicle, the truck in which he was a passenger hit a land mine. His wife and family received the sad news on Christmas Eve. Rudy's body was flown home by way of Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and accompanied to Canton by Staff Sergeant Bruce Maner.

Because Rudy had been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a contingent from the local Post stood guard at his casket during the wake at the Joseph P. Roache Home for Funerals.

His funeral mass was celebrated on January 2, 1970 by Father Morgan at St. John's Church. There was a large delegation of veterans present. Active bearers were soldiers from Fort Devens, and the 18th Army Band sounded Taps. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post comprised the color guard. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rudy never lived to see his daughter, Melissa, or her three children.

A memorial sign will be dedicated to Sergeant Rudolph E. Araujo at the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets on Wednesday, October 16 at 2 p.m.

Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Peter M. Hansen

Peter Mykal Hansen was the first of Canton's sons to lose his life in the Vietnam War. He was also the first fallen serviceman in town for whom a public building was named.

Peter was born in Brockton on April 23, 1945, the son of Stanley and Marian (Churchill) Hansen. He had an older brother Stanley and a sister Diane, and after his mother's second marriage to Edward Callery of Canton, he had another brother, Edward "Chip" Callery.

Peter grew up in Canton with his mother and stepfather and lived on Van Buren Street. At the local public schools, he was well regarded and a good student.

He was a member of Canton High's Class of 1963, where he enrolled in the shop course. One of his former teachers, Paul Callanan, remembers Peter well. "He was a great boy— a super kid," Callanan said.

Callanan discovered that Peter had mathematical aptitudes and persuaded him as a junior to start taking college math courses. Peter did so, even though it initially meant that he had to attend freshman classes. He did well and progressed to more advanced math, earning all As in his courses.

After graduation, he worked for a time with a young man on Sherman Street who was trying to establish a cabinet-making business; he also worked at the Plymouth Rubber Company for a year.

On August 31, 1965 — with the war in Southeast Asia escalating — Peter enlisted in the Army for a three-year term and received a commitment to be given training in auto maintenance. He went to Fort Dix, New Jersey for his Basic Training and there took a series of aptitude tests. The results confirmed what Paul Callanan had discovered. Peter's scores were exceptionally high and indicative of his intelligence. The results marked him early on as a prospect for Officers Candidate School.

In November, he was assigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky for advanced training in tank warfare, and by January 1966, he was an Acting Drill Sergeant. After three months, Peter was selected to attend Officers Candidate School — also at Fort Knox — starting on April 26, 1966. The O.C.S. program lasted 23 weeks and laid the foundation for a career in an Armored division

Upon completion of the course on October 4, 1966, Peter was discharged as an enlisted man and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He was then re-assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia for a five-week course as a Civil Affairs Advisor for Vietnam; he remained at Fort Gordon as a Training Officer until June 29.

Lieutenant Hansen volunteered for Vietnam duty and arrived there August 16. He was assigned as a Liaison Officer to Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor of the 25th Division. After receiving commendable fitness reports from his commanding officers, he was promoted to First Lieutenant on October 4, 1967. By that time, he was in a combat area as is clearly seen from his last fitness report:

"When the battalion headquarters moved to Tay Ninh and was given the mission of base camp defense on 22 Sep 67, Lt. Hansen assumed new duties. He was given responsibility for the 52 bunkers, which make up the defense perimeter for Tay Ninh base camp. It was Lt. Hansen's job to insure that all bunkers were manned, alert, properly armed and supplied with armaments. This was a very demanding job and usually took at least six hours to check each bunker one time. Due to his untiring efforts, the alertness of the guards increased twofold. He never missed a bunker and the guards knew it, so they were alert constantly. All of the inspections were made at night and the trail around the perimeter is extremely difficult to travel, but Lt. Hansen was never stopped by this difficulty. He always kept check on the bunkers, even if he had to walk.

Lt. Peter M. Hansen

As proof of the fine job Lt. Hansen did, when he first assumed these new duties there were five or six incidents a night, such as guards asleep on post, reading books, listening to radios, etc. After the first two weeks, due to Lt. Hansen's diligence, there is rarely an incident.....Lt. Hansen is a willing, energetic officer, completely dependable and devoted to his duty. Another service of great value, which Lt. Hansen performed for the battalion, was in keeping the Operations Center abreast of the situation on the perimeter. Any incident that was reported by a bunker, such as incoming enemy fire, movement near a bunker etc., would be checked by Lt. Hansen and he would keep the TOC informed at all times. For his age and experience, Lt. Hansen made very sound decisions. I would welcome Lt. Hansen into any unit or section under my command."

Signed by Major Frederick Oldinsky his Commanding Officer

On November 29, 1967 Lieutenant Hansen was killed in action in the service of his country from a wound received "while a passenger in a military vehicle hit by a hostile anti-tank round." This was the statement in the official Army Report of Casualty.

The telegram to his mother, which she received on Sunday, December 3, said his vehicle hit an enemy land mine. His body was returned to Canton and on Monday, December 11 a funeral mass was celebrated at St. John's by Father William H. Morgan. Lt. Peter Hansen was laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery on a dismal morning — in keeping with the somber feelings of the mourners — as snow, sleet and rain filled the air.

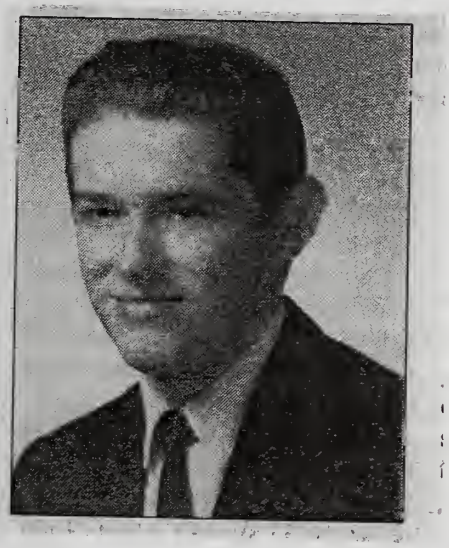
The Army sent a contingent from Fort Devens, headed by a Major to act as honor guard, bearers, flag holders and buglers. At the burial service, Sergeant Stanley Hansen, Peter's older brother, home on bereavement leave from his Army post at El Paso, Texas, presented the flag on the casket to their mother.

On January 9, 1968 the Army informed his mother that Peter had been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Later in September, she received notice that the Government of the Republic of Vietnam had awarded him the National Order of Vietnam Fifth Class and the Gallantry Cross with Palm. He was eligible also for the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal, as well as the Good Conduct Medal.

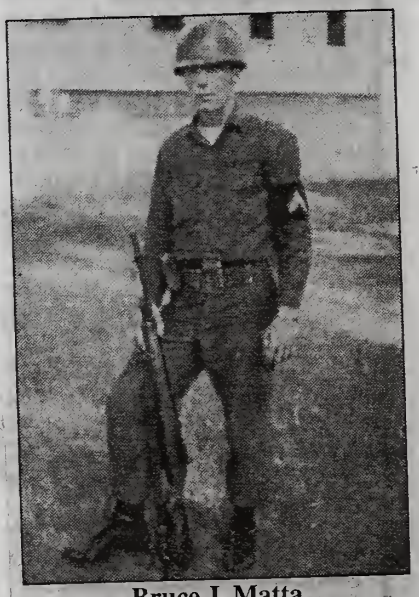
For some reason, some of these medals — including the Bronze Star — were only forwarded to Peter's family in recent months. Marian, his mother, died last month, and at her funeral mass in St. John's on September 25, Peter's Bronze Star rested on her casket. This was accomplished through the work of Tony Andreotti, the Veterans Agent.

In March 1969 the Canton School Committee unanimously voted to name the new elementary school under construction on Pecunit Street after Peter M. Hansen.

A memorial sign will be dedicated to Lieutenant Peter M. Hansen on Wednesday October 30 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Pierce Place and Washington Street. Pierce Place is between High Street and the Gridley School.



Town to honor *Fallen Hero* Bruce J. Matta



Bruce J. Matta

Bruce Matta was born in Boston on March 22, 1948 and came to Canton in time to enter Canton High School as a freshman in the Class of 1967. He lived on Chestnut Road with his mother and stepfather, Ecequiel Otero.

Bruce had an older brother, Brian Matta, and two younger sisters, Fernanda and Lisa Otero.

Bruce is described by his friend Edward "Chip" Callery as "one great and out-going kid."

Another friend — in Canton and in combat — Jim Forsythe says, "He was a good guy—always laughing. He was a leader and one who made it easier for me. He was always willing to go the extra step. He would volunteer without being ordered or asked. He was an all-around good person." Other close pals of Bruce were Kenny Curtis and Richard Cocchi. In town for a relatively short period, he accumulated a lot of firm friendships.

Bruce took the shop course at Canton High and had a liking for machinist work. He was able to get part-time work at the Kessler Machine Shop while at the high school and went to work there full-time after graduating in June 1967.

In the spring of the following year, Bruce and his friend, Jim Forsythe of Eliot Street, decided to join the Army under the "buddy" plan. The buddy system was a guarantee that you and your friend would stay together through basic training. In this instance, they remained together through basic and advanced training and wound up in the same company in the 25th Division in Vietnam. One of the reasons Bruce chose to enlist in the Army was because it offered specialized machinist training. His marksmanship scores, however, were so high his sharp-shooting abilities made him a valuable combat infantryman.

Bruce and Jim enlisted on April 3, 1968, and after training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, they were ready for duty in Vietnam about six months later. Knowing that her son would not be home for Christmas, Bruce's mother arranged to have a Christmas celebration in October. The house had holiday lights and Christmas decorations, as his relatives and friends gathered for a going-away party – not knowing it was to be a farewell party.

He left for Vietnam on October 31, and although he and Jim were in the same company they were in separate platoons. Jim was wounded in February and was out of action when Bruce was hit later. Bruce was wounded in April but recovered in time to be back in combat in May. He was the point man on a patrol near Chu Chi on May 13 when he flushed out a Viet Cong soldier. Bruce pursued the enemy, who jumped into a bunker, from which burst a hail of hostile fire. Bruce was cut down, as was another American soldier who tried to come to his aid.

A funeral mass with full military honors was said for Bruce at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, with burial in Mt. Benedict Cemetery in West Roxbury. Three months later at a ceremony at ROTC headquarters at Northeastern University, his family was presented with the nine combat medals he had won, including two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

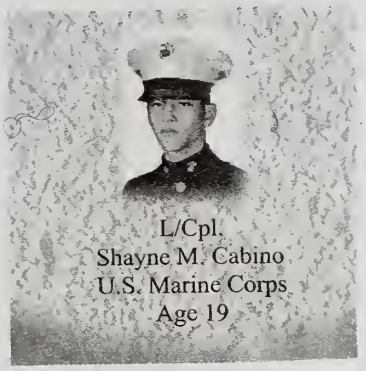
Bruce had had a steady girl friend, and while in the service he had sent home to his mother money to buy a hope chest for the young lady. After his death, Bruce's mother gave the money to the brokenhearted girl.

***

A memorial sign to Corporal Bruce J. Matta will be dedicated on Wednesday November 6 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Cedarcrest and Birchcroft Roads.

Bruce J. Matta

IRAQ WAR



The reality of the Iraq conflict was brought home to Canton with the announcement of the death of L/Cpl Shayne M. Cabino on October 6, 2005.

He was only 19 years of age. Born on February 15, 1986, Shayne grew up in Franklin where he completed his primary education and enjoyed playing Pop Warner football. He then entered Tri County Regional Technical School and competed with the wrestling team. Shayne transferred to Canton High School in 2003 when he moved to Canton and graduated with the class of 2004. He was known for his infectious smile, positive personality and likeable demeanor which may have been developed as the middle child of seven siblings. Cabino entered the Marine Corps October 17, 2004 and after 12 weeks of training at Paris Island, South Carolina, advanced infantry training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and being stationed in California he was sent to Iraq to join up with Company G, 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Marines. Less than three months after he arrived Cabino perished on a mission 50 miles west of Baghdad in the Town of Karmah when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Also killed in the same action near Karmah were three other Marines. All were casualties of improvised explosive devices, a weapon that insurgents use with increasing effectiveness against American ground forces.

For his service and sacrifice, L/Cpl. Cabino was awarded the:

Purple Heart Medal
Good Conduct Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Rifle Sharpshooter Badge

His body was returned and buried with full military honors at Mount Hope Cemetery in Attleboro. Beverly Beckham pointedly remarked in her Boston Globe column on Cabino's death, "a few words, a few prayers, a plaque somewhere will mark their sacrifice".

Ed Piana
2006

Town of Canton, MA
Veterans Discharged from 1980 to 2006

Adams James M.	Coulombe Craig N.	Gabeau David R.
Agenor Reginald	Coyle Paul T.	Galvin James L.
Alaimo John A.	Crandall Adam B.	Gearty Joseph E.
Albert Brian D	Creel Stephen N.	George David E.
Alexander Thomas	Crespi Charles C.	Giannelli John E.
Andrews Ralph E.	Crimmins Robert E.	Gilbertson Ronald P.
Arsenault Donald F.	Cronis Douglas R.	Gooley Robert S.
Aufiero Kenneth D.	Crowley Christopher J.	Gorman Philip J.
Bauman Steven W.	Currie Edward M.	Gorton Paul E.
Baum, Heinrich	Currivan Michael P.	Greer Michael D.
Belizaire, Vladeric	Dailey Joseph J.	Griffin Timothy P.
Bell Timothy R.	Damron Gregory A.	Gross George L.
Bell Jamison K	Dargin John F.	Guarino George A.
Bending Robert R	Davey Paul F.	Haberstroh Scott P.
Benoit Conrad H	Delprete Todd D.	Hainley Charles M.
Bettinelli John A	Denning James M.	Hallett William J.
Bires Francis M.	Desousa J. V.	Hamilton Scott W.
Black David A	Dever Matthew K.	Hand Richard J.
Blunt Adam P	Dever John P.	Harding Karyn B.
Bobinsky George F.	Devine Darin T.	Harding Patricia A.
Bohannon Sarah E.	Devine Patrick J.	Harding Richard R.
Bonanno Paul J	Dickie Jason S.	Hassett Virginia K.
Bonanno Paul J.	Ditullio Peter C.	Hawes Zoe C.
Booth Darram	Doherty George G.	Heaney William H.
Branagan Robert J	Dolan Steven P.	Hemenway Edward C.
Brennan William A	Donahoe Daniel B.	Hutchinson David B
Brown William J.	Donlan Michael E.	Ingemanson Theodore J.
Brown Richard J	Doody Robert A.	Ingeneri Lawrence M.
Brown Michael A.	Dooley John P.	Jacobs Eric W.
Bryant John K.	Doyle Jack F.	Johnson Russell A.
Burns Eileen S	Drake Jessica A.	Johnson Tracy L.
Cacciagrani A.	Drinkwater Amy R.	Jones George M.
Cafasso Paul A.	Driscoll Thomas P.	Jordan Robert J.
Caffasso Guido A.	Duggan William E.	Kelly Christopher J.
Campagna Paul M.	Durbin Jennifer M.	Kennedy Sena P
Carney John F	Dyson Paul J.	Kennedy Christophen F.
Carroll James R.	Fantasia Michael K.	Keselman Irving M.
Chamberlain Paul T	Feeley Lon O.	Kilduff, Jr. Robert T.
Chen Judy	Feeney Erin B.	Kiligarslan Safer
Christiano Robert J.	Ferrara Matthew G.	Kilnapp Joshua B.
Clark Thomas P.	Ficket Norman A.	Kincade Stephen P.
Clemens Lisa M.	Fitzgerald Daniel M.	Kincade Robert J.
Coelno Gerald V.	Flood Timothy P.	King John G.
Coleman Michael P	Foley John M.	Kingsley Norman A.
Conard Robert F.	Foley Kevin M.	Kisthardt James P.
Cooley Robert S.	Follett Charles F.	Klimas Deborah S.
Corraro Susan A.	Francis James P.	Klimas John V.

Town of Canton, MA
Veterans Discharged from 1980 to 2006

Kueniel Daniel J.	Mulvey William S.	Shannon Christophen M.
Lane Patrick M.	Murray William H.	Silvasy James G.
Larson John L.	O'Brien Edward Lawrence	Silver Kenneth R.
Lavin Padraig O.	O'Brien Jeffrey P	Simons Carl W.
Lawton George H.	Odum Gary E.	Slayton Wayne W.
Leahy Brian R.	O'Hara Brian G.	Smith Frederick D.
Leblanc Ronald G.	Oliva Josie M.	Smith Cary L.
Lewis William R.	Olsen Eric R.	Sokolove Jeremy B.
Lewis Sean J.	Olshaker Jonathan S.	Souza Daniel E.
Liss Eric A.	Olson Brian D.	Spinale Janet A.
Livshin Ilya A.	O'Sullivan James M.	Stewart Robert J.
Londer David S.	Parker Augustin J.	Studebaker David A.
Lovelady Tammy J.	Pasquarosa Ronald D.	Studebaker Charles R.
Luce Wayne A.	Pellittieri Christopher M.	Sullivan John N.
MacLeod Duncan A.	Peters Daniel F.	Travers Thomas M.
MacNeill David	Petrozelli John F.	Thomas Andrew D.
MacNeill Cameron D.	Petty Matthew L.	Thompson Robert G.
MacPhail Britta S.	Pilblad Brian L.	Tordoff Joshua D.
Maddestra Frances E.	Piro Glen P.	Truczinskas Paul E.
Madeira Louis R.	Plaob David B.	Uliano Matthew P.
Maguire James M.	Politano Joseph A.	Uliano Michael A.
Maguire John R.	Powers Jerome M.	Valas Matthew A.
Mahan Mark S.	Ptlblad Brian L.	Vanloan Erik P.
Malley Charles J.	Pugh Guy F.	Vaughan Ryan E.
Marchant Ralph E.	Pushard Lawrence M.	Vecchione Anthony
Marshall Brian D.	Rae Michael C.	Vivona Thomas T.
Marshalsea Jeffrey F.	Rae Charles P.	Volkin David J.
Martinez Jamie Y	Rae, Jr. James C.	Volkin Eva M.
Matanes Mark E.	Ragglani James V.	Volpe Steven F.
Matthews Robert J.	Rawding Matthew P.	Wagner James M.
McCabe John H.	Remiesiewicz Eric S.	Wagner Michael J.
McCain Kurt S.	Roberts Richard A.	Waite Mark S.
McCarthy Christopher J.	Rogers Keith M.	Walls Arthur W.
McDonald Patrick F.	Ross Timothey M.	Weafer Kevin R.
McDonough Brian P.	Ross Steven M.	Webbe Sydney F.
McDonough Arthur R.	Roy Gerard L.	Weinberg Harry
McFreeran Gregory	Ruane John F.	Weir Scott A.
McKenna Kevin P.	Russell III Roland J.	Weitz Gerald W.
McLaughlin John A.	Ryan Norman W.	Wenger David A.
McPherson Alva W.	Sakalakus Joanne P.	Wheeler James M.
Merchant Stephen C.	Sanford Christopher S.	White Mark S.
Miller Craig L.	Sanon, Jr. Wilson	Widberg Robert E.
Miller James A.	Savage Matthew G.	Widberg Gregory C.
Moore Antonio J.	Schaaf Richard B.	Willemsen Jim G.
Moran Stephen W.	Scioletti Daniel E.	Willey Robert F.
Morehouse Francis J.	Seery Mark J.	Wood Beth L.
Mulcahy David M.	Serdensky Janice A.	Woodhouse Kevin E.
Mullaley Mark E.	Sexton Robert J.	Woodson Jonathan

CANTON VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

CANTON WWII VETERANS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

2004-2005-2006

Supplement To
Fallen Heroes Booklet

Edward R. Piana
2007

MEMORIAL DAY –2003

General Douglas MacArthur said, "The Soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war". In a sobering vein, the great General went on to quote Plato, "only the dead have seen the end of war". In times of peace and when far removed from the scenes of battle, few give any thoughts to those whose sacrifices secured the peace.

Memorial Day parades are a visual display of remembrance and a time for rededication to peace. On Monday, May 26, 2003 local units will assemble once again for Canton's annual memorial procession along Washington Street. Aging veterans will try to remember the drill routines. Shift weight to the right and step off with the left foot in 30-inch strides; listen to the beat and follow the cadence call; guide-on to the right; cover down; eyes straight ahead! WWII and Korean War veterans, well beyond any inhibitions about taking part in the parade, will dwell on their physical abilities to complete the route; many from the Vietnam and Cold War era who traditionally had been somewhat reluctant to participate, gradually will have begun to get involved. Desert Storm and now the Middle East veterans will fall in to become part of the unit with their older comrades in arms, men and women alike. With precision, the parade will move along Washington Street with stops at Canton's monuments to the fallen of WWI at the Hemenway; of Vietnam at theTown Hall; of WWII at the High School; of Korea at the Eliot School and finally to those of all wars at the American Legion Walk of Honor in Canton Corner Cemetery. Along the way may be heard a command for "eyes right" in tribute to one with special wartime heroics; a "hand salute" to another and even a few very unmilitary-like embraces as expressions of the loving bond of comradeship. Beyond the High School, a forlorn glance may be directed to the empty spot where in years past, Canton's special Soldier had stood as the living symbol of sacrifice by him and by all of his Greatest Generation. Suffering he endured for six decades with dignity and humility, all the while shifting attention from himself to his other fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who never returned to their homes in Canton. The name Tolias now joins those of Revere, Crane, Gridley, Beatty and all the Fallen Heroes whose memories survive the passage of time for their lasting contributions to community and country.

And what of the living? Are they left with simply recollections or are there more demanding roles of responsibility for them to guard against future conflicts? On this day of reflection, shall it be solely about enveloping oneself in the Flag, listening to bands, tying yellow ribbons, hearing patriotic speeches and calls for support of our troops?

Or is there more to be learned and are there redeeming benefits to be derived from the casualties of past wars? The question is rhetorical. The answers are obvious. For if the response is no, then the veterans' suffering and sacrifices were in vain; merely for expediency and to gain only a temporary cessation to world conflicts.

Much of America's population had its roots transplanted to these shores because their native lands had fostered centuries of continuous turmoil and strife, which brought its people only deprivation, death and devastation. They abandoned the Continent and its senseless wars for the promises of this new nation. Today the much maligned French stand out as prime examples of people with a long history of bloodletting from the numerous Napoleonic Wars, then three with Germany, one in Indochina and ultimately in Algeria. Their experiences have caused most of that population to renounce war as a solution. Jacques Prevert, the 20th century surrealist poet, composed a modern-day poem that synthesizes the experiences and expectations of successive generations caught in continuous wars. The full meaning and nuances of language and culture are difficult to translate but the essence is clear:

Familiale

La mere fait du tricot
Le fils fait la guerre
Elle trouve ca tout naturel la mere
Et le pere qu'est-ce qu'il fait le pere?
Il fait des affaires
Sa femme fait du tricot
Son fils la guerre
Lui des affaires
Il trouve ca tout naturel le pere
Et le fils et le fils
Qu'est-ce qu'il trouve le fils?
Il ne trouve rien absolument rien le fils
Le fils sa mere fait du tricot son pere des affaires lui la guerre
Il fera des affaires avec son pere
La guerre continue la mere continue elle tricote
Le pere continue il fait des affaires
Le fils est tue il ne continue plus
Le pere et la mere vont au cimetiere
Ils trouvent ca tout naturel le pere et la mere
La vie continue la vie avec le tricote la guerre les affaires
Les affaires les affaires et les affaires
La vie avec le cimetiere.

The mother does some knitting
The son goes off to war
She finds this quite normal, the mother
And the father, what does he do, the father?
He attends to his business
His wife does some knitting
The son is off to war
He to his business
He finds this quite normal, the father
And the son, and the son

What does he find, the son?
He finds nothing, absolutely nothing
The son (sees) his mother doing some knitting, his father attending to his business
He off to war
He will work with his father (in time)
The war continues, the mother continues her knitting
The father carries on,
He attends to his business
The son is killed; he carries on no more
The father and mother go (visit) the cemetery
They find this quite normal, the father and the mother
Life goes on, life with the knitting, the war and the business
The work, the work, the work
Life revolves around the cemetery.

What meaningful tribute can be offered to veterans? Could it be a more vigorous resolve to promote peace and cooperation among nations? Could it be a deeper search for solutions and for a better understanding of the underlying causes of friction between nations rather than conclusions based solely on the symptoms? Could citizens devote more attention to matters of foreign affairs? All of the above and more?

Some specifics to those possibilities may be found in President Eisenhower's farewell address of 1961 when he cautioned the country about the "military, industrial complex" and that the country's engagement in weaponry and missiles required "an alert and knowledgeable citizenry and that those who have freedom will understand its' heavy responsibilities".

Neither diminished nor dismayed by two failed campaigns for the Presidency, another American statesman, Adlai Stevenson, suggested that patriotism "is a sense of national responsibility which will enable America to remain master of her power – to walk with it in serenity and wisdom, with self respect and the respect of all mankind; a patriotism that puts country ahead of self; a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime. The dedication of a lifetime-these are words that are easy to utter, but that is a mighty assignment. *For it is often easier to fight for principles, than to live up to them."*

May the counsel of those wise leaders of the past century, serve as guideposts for this Memorial Day tribute to veterans.

Ed Piana
2003

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

George Sykes

He surely is one of the best-known citizens of Canton and well he should be in light of his extensive involvement in community affairs.

Born in Boston on March 14, 1919 he went on to Mechanics Art High School from which he graduated in 1936. For 61 years he and his bride, Agnes, have enjoyed an ideal partnership. During that time, they raised four sons.

In January 1943 he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps and served as a Staff Sgt. in the Pacific Theatre earning the following medals: American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific with Bronze Star, Navy Good Conduct, Navy Occupation Service with Asia Clasp, WW II Victory, China Service and Honorable Service Medal.

After his discharge in 1946 he earned a degree from Northeastern University and was employed in the capacity of plant manager for a national firm. At some point he discovered Canton where he established his home on Pleasant Street. Canton has had the good fortune to have his contributions in many capacities and organizations. He has been a volunteer at the Canton Senior Center for 15 years; 10 years as president of the Canton Retired Men's Club and a proud member from inception of the Canton Veterans Honor Guard and Canton Veterans Council. His many humanitarian contributions to friends, casual acquaintances and community are largely unheralded but nonetheless constitute outstanding service in many areas of life and to numerous individuals who have been in need of a hand. His hand always is extended willingly and unselfishly as needed. He is the embodiment of the Marine motto – Semper Fidelis, always faithful to the principles of God, country and fellow man. To be recorded as one of his friends, truly is a great honor.

He truly is most deserving of recognition. It is with gratitude this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award is presented to George Sykes, Sr.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Frederick Sexton

He truly typifies his, the Greatest Generation. Like so many other Canton residents, he arrived here during the post-war years when the town expanded from 5,000 to 20,000 citizens.

Born in Boston in 1925, he completed grammar school at St. Williams in the Dorchester section of the city. Following his graduation from Commerce High School, he attended Merrimack College in Andover. WW II interrupted his life with a call to serve in the Army beginning on July 19, 1943. In the early winter months of 1944 he was on his way to Europe where he took part in the Normandy campaign followed by Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He rose to the rank of Tech/5 and was awarded European Theatre of Operation medals. After 29 months of hazardous duty, he was discharged from Fort Devens with $100. in government separation pay.

In 1952 he and Grace Murray were married, eventually moved to Canton and raised their three children. He found time to serve as a Boy Scout leader and without fanfare, has always stood out as the quiet, hard working solid citizen who represents middle class America of the Greatest Generation.

Today, Frederick L. Sexton is receiving the Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award for his admirable character traits demonstrated both as a soldier and a civilian.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Walter Nervi

Soon after his birth in Chicago, Illinois in 1919, his family returned to Italy. Not until age eleven did he return with his parents and brother to take up residence in Canton. Only then did he learn English at the Revere School where dedicated teachers and his own innate abilities enabled him to catch up with his grade school contemporaries. He graduated from Canton High School in 1937.

Golf was his sport passion so much so that at one time he became the professional at Wampatuck Country Club. Along with the other local young men, he was a co-founder of the Canton Town Club in 1939.

On January 5, 1943 he entered the U. S. Army and a year later became part of the Allied invasion force. As an infantryman with the 63rd Army Division, he was wounded; received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge as well as other personal and unit citations.

Following WW II he rose to the position of sales manager with a major New England firm. He and the former Blanche Danahy were married in 1959 and raised two daughters.

The badge of success for most first generation Americans is found not in their own accomplishments but rather in that of their children. As parents of a Princeton and outstanding law school graduate who served as law clerk for a Supreme Court Justice and as parents of a second daughter who graduated from Stanford and went on to become a medical doctor, the measure of their parental accomplishments is quite obvious.

Walter Nervi, soldier, citizen and parent has given his country and community much for which he is being recognized today with this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Paul Cash

Although born in South Boston on January 4, 1925 he has lived most of his life in Canton where he attended the Crane, St. John's and Canton High School.

He and his wife, June, were married on June 16, 1946. They raised four children in this town they love. For many years he has been a dedicated usher and worker for his church. During the past three years he has served as a member of Canton's Veterans Honor Guard and a frequent volunteer at grade school presentations of WW II history. Humility, honesty and honor best describe this citizen of Canton.

He joined the Marines in April 1943 and took part in one of the most notable battles of the Pacific campaign. As part of the second wave, this young Marine stormed the beached of Iwo Jima. After the bloody, hard-fought victory, he observed the nearby raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi from his fox hole.

For the past 59 years on every Memorial Day since 1945, Paul F. Cash has marched with pride in the annual parade to recognize and honor those who never returned and who could never march again.

Paul F. Cash is a most worthy recipient of this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Daniel Berardi

Born of immigrant parents 81 years ago in Canton and as the oldest of eight siblings growing up during the Depression, he received some early conditioning for the challenges he could never anticipate which lay ahead in his military career.

After St. John's Grammar School, he went on to Canton High School from which he graduated in 1941. There, he was an outstanding lineman on the football team.

In February 1943 he was inducted into the U. S. Army and assigned to the Air Corps. One year later his unit, the 816th Bomber Squadron was stationed in Italy. From that air base he took part in 50 air missions over targets in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. For his bravery and gallantry in action while remaining aboard his crippled B-17 bomber with wounded crew members, the U.S. Army Air Corps awarded him the Silver Star as well as the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Having risen to the rank of S/Sgt, he came home to be discharged in late 1945. He and his late wife, Bridget raised five children during the post war era. During that period, he was employed by the U. S. Postal Service until his retirement.

It is with great respect and appreciation for his outstanding military service and for his unassuming demeanor throughout his life that Danny Berardi is being recognized today with the presentation of this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Paul J. Rogers

His birthplace was the Brighton section of Boston on December 30, 1918. The family later settled in Canton where he and his siblings attended the St. John's grammar school. Following graduation with the Canton High School class of 1936, he enrolled in the Bentley School of Accounting.

On March 20, 1942, ten days before his induction, he was married and then went off to war. For the next four years, he lived the perilous life of a soldier in the European Theatre of Operations beginning with D-Day, followed by Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe. He attained the rank of Sergeant as a member of the 407th AAA Gun Battalion.

After the war he and his wife, Pauline, became parents of a daughter. His long career with the United States Customs Office was matched by a 25 year reign in the role of President of the Canton Town Club, a Canton institution which he co-founded in 1939.

Today, a Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award is presented to Paul J. Rogers for his exemplary service to his country in WW II and for his contributions to his community in peacetime.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

John Hagerty

When he married into a family of fifth generation Cantonites on March 2, 1946, he established his roots as a transplanted "Townie" of this community. Although born in Boston in 1917, he went on to grammar and high school in nearby Newton.

In civilian life he was employed in the management of a large retail establishment. Without delay or hesitation, he enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1941 and shipped out of Brooklyn, New York harbor three weeks following Pearl Harbor. The first stop was Melbourne, Australia. As a task force member in the 23rd Infantry Division, the first Army unit to take offensive action, he landed in New Caledonia in March 1942. From there they made successive landings at Guadalcanal, Figi and Bouganville. Like so many others who served in the Pacific campaigns, he was infected with malaria and other jungle diseases which required hospitalization.

After five long years he returned home; married the former Virginia Galligan and together they raised two children. Never one to draw attention to himself, he quietly became a supportive member of the American Legion Post #24, has filled the office of treasurer in the Retired Men's Club and is an active participant with the Council on Aging.

For his long, illustrious service as a citizen-soldier who answered the call willingly and voluntarily, this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award is presented to John (Jack) Hagerty.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Aurelio (Sam) Zamarripa

One conjures up the images of hard-driving, western cowboys when Eagle Pass, Texas is listed in 1921 as place of birth for this distinguished veteran. And his point of entry into the U. S. Army – El Paso, Texas – is just as imaginative. His military career stretched over 30 years, 2 months and 26 days during which time his service spanned WW II, Korea and Vietnam. Like another famous Texas soldier from WW II, he received numerous medals, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons including the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct, Asian-Pacific, American Campaign, WW II Victory, Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Four Overseas Bars, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal. Overall he spent 16 years and 5 months overseas in the Pacific, Central America and Vietnam. Somehow he found the time to gain degrees from the University of Alabama as well.

Along the way he met some famous brass including Generals Eisenhower, Ridgeway and Westmoreland. In 1969 he married Mary O'Neil, a Canton native, U. S. Air Force Captain and member of a distinguished local military family. They raised five children. Both he and his wife have remained active in American Legion Post 24 as well as in other veterans' affairs and have been volunteers in many church activities.

As one of Canton's most decorated servicemen, Lt. Colonel Aurelio (Sam) Zamarripa is an outstanding and exceptional recipient of this Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

George E. Buttrick

A veteran more loyal to his comrades, past and present cannot be found in Canton. He has served as grand marshal of the annual Memorial Day parade on numerous occasions since the end of WW II. Although a resident of Hingham since 1953 when he married his late wife, Nancy Ross, he continues to travel to Canton for all the monthly veterans' coffee hours in order to share precious moments with his fellow service buddies.

Due to the death of his parents and his brother's asthma, family relatives brought the boys to Canton in 1928 where he attended St. John's School and then Canton High School graduating with the Class of 1941.

On April 19, 1943 he entered military service and eventually became one of the Flying Tigers in the China-Burma-India theatre of operations. As a member of the U. S. Army Air Corps, he took part in many dangerous missions. Finally, he came home to be discharged on December 19, 1945. One year following the outbreak of the Korean War, he was recalled as a Captain in the U. S. Air Force where he served another two years. Among his decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, Seven Battle Stars and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon.

For a lifetime of devotion to duty and dedication to perpetuating the spirit of honor and comradeship among all former members of the nation's armed forces, the Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award is presented to George E. Buttrick.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Edward Duggan

On March 31, 1925 he was born to parents, William and Harriet, on Mechanic Street. He was one of six siblings raised in the ethnic conclave of old Canton which encompasses Bolivar, Mechanic and Rockland Streets. As a boy, he suffered an eye injury resulting from pranks with chums in the BM'nR which changed the course of his life. The eye problem had little impact during his school years neither at St. John's School nor at Canton High School where he played football and graduated with the Class of 1942.

When the draft call came early in 1943, he was classified 4F due to the eye injury. Undeterred, he promptly volunteered and was accepted in the Army on July 12, 1943 with his lifelong buddy, Eddie Estey. After basic training he shipped out of Boston Harbor on an LST. The convoy remained at sea for 45 days before reaching England on May 6, 1944. Ultimately his unit, the 572 Quartermaster Medical Battalion, crossed the channel and trudged through France to the conclusion of the war in Germany.

After his discharge in November 1945, he attended Boston Trade School and on October 2, 1948 he married Eileen Finnegan. They became the proud parents of six children. For his occupation, he joined the firm originated by his grandfather in 1891 which was carried on by his father. From a two man shop, he expanded the mechanical contractors firm to the present 200 employees while his brother was similarly successful in the plumbing supply business.

To this day he remains the unpretentious home-town boy from a blue collar background whose illustrious and benevolent family branches have contributed much to the well-being of the town of Canton. In recognition of his outstanding human attributes as a husband, father, brother, citizen, soldier and employer, the Distinguished Veteran of the Year Award is presented with sincere appreciation to Edward "Buddy" Duggan.

Ed Piana
2004

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
Lawrence J. Armando

Four brothers from this large Canton family served in the military; three in the Navy and a fourth in the Army. In all, there were eleven siblings born to parents who had immigrated and settled in Canton prior to W.W.1.

On February 28, 1926 our honoree was born on Maple St. Canton. He did not have to travel far for his schooling at St. John's Grammar and High Schools. Immediately following graduation in 1942, he obtained his parents' consent to join the U. S. Navy. Boot camp at Newport, Rhode Island, Gunnery School on Long Island and amphibious training in San Diego preceded his eventual assignment to the ATA Landing Ship, the William T. Endicott.

The ship sailed for North Africa where the young sailor ran across Mike and Sardo Vendetti as well as Earl Staples who were Canton service men in the invasion force. From there the Endicott took part in the Italian campaigns of Sicily, Anzio, Salerno and Bari. On January 23, 1944 the Endicott returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard for repairs following which they were off to Oben, Scotland in preparation for D-Day. On June 6, 1944 he and his fellow crewmen hit Utah Beach on the French coast in action that involved landings, evacuations, gathering of prisoners and delivery of men and materials. At Utah Beach he met another Cantonite, George Roach who was serving with the Army. The ship moved to Antwerp fully expecting to take on survivors of the Battle of the Bulge. There he met George Jenkins father of Canton's former selectman and long time town official.

In 1945 the Endicott returned to the United States as part of a 30 ship convoy which sailed through the Cape Cod Canal to the cheers of thousands who lined the shores in a mass celebration and salute to the victorious seamen.

The Pacific war still raged when the Endicott arrived at San Diego. Once again he met a hometown sailor – Ernie Patriarca. VJ Day, August 14, 1945, finally brought an end to WW II and our honoree headed home by train to the Fargo Building in South Boston. He was paid $11.05. The 5 cents covered the fare to South Station and the $11.00 reimbursed him for the cross country meals. On March 3, 1946 as a Gunners Mate 2nd Class he received his discharge. Among the long list of medals and citations, he cherishes the three Bronze Stars he was awarded for his assault landings in Europe.

Now retired and widowed, he looks back on 50 years of a happy marriage, to a rewarding career as a plumber, to his passion for both fresh and salt water fishing, to his many years as an usher at St. John's Church and to his association with the Canton Town Club since 1946 both as a member and director.

This award can never equate to the human sacrifices and contributions made by the recipients. It serves merely as a small token of appreciation and an opportunity to say thanks to men and women who long ago gave so much toward achieving America's finest hour. As one of those from Canton's Greatest Generation, Lawrence J. Armando is presented with the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Robert J. Barbaglia

The length of his WW II military service stands out as an amazing accomplishment of itself. He enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps where he served from November 19, 1940 to September 24, 1946 – almost six full years during a period of full scale war.

He was born in Canton on September 22, 1922, the fourth of five children. Two older brothers were WW II draftees in the U. S. Army. An older and younger sister completed the family of his immigrant parents.

The Great Depression, his interest and America's pending entry in the war all had an influence in his decision to join the Marines. Discharge papers list the perfunctory essentials of the person's military experience. His reveals that he became a corporal, was a marksman and that he first served in Argentia, Newfoundland which was followed by a string of Pacific campaigns at Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian Islands and Iwo Jima. For his engagements he received recognition both through individual and unit citations and decorations. One sidelight is the beautiful penmanship of his signature on the discharge form.

As a result of a fall from a military truck, he sustained a serious back injury which subsequently paralyzed his lower extremities. Eventually, he made a partial recovery.

On April 17, 1948 he and Shirley Parish were married. They have always resided in Canton where they raised their only child, Cheryl, who now makes her home in Lexington, South Carolina. Physical limitations have restricted him from many activities which he would have enjoyed throughout adult life. He does continue his long active membership in the Canton Town Club and he is a regular participant at the monthly veterans' coffee hours which gives him the opportunity to interact with fellow veterans in their cherished period of comradeship.

In his case, not only did his active duty far exceed the norm, but regrettably he has had to bear the physical consequences of the war for a lifetime. The Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented today to Robert J. Barbaglia. It is a mere token of appreciation from the community for his long, active military service and for his stoic endurance of the war's consequences over his lifetime.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Walter L. Bucci

Undemonstrative, quiet yet humorous best describes this man who has lived his entire life in Canton where he was born on February 25, 1918. Three sisters and a brother completed the family led by a physically imposing, friendly father and a vibrant, engaging mother. Their home in the upper Hardware section of Washington Street stood as a landmark in the days preceding Canton's post-war housing boom.

He attended St. John's Grammar and St. John's High School. Following graduation he was employed at Draper Brothers. Prior to Pearl Harbor, he became one of Canton's first wave of draftees who was called up to serve on Columbus Day, 1941. The U. S. Army trained him as a marksman infantry rifleman, drive and engineer. When the Allies finally went on the offensive, he was part of the North African invasion force which landed in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. He then took part in the Sicily campaign and the southern Italy invasion followed by Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. What was to have been a one year tour of duty turned out to be a full four years – three of which were in overseas battles as a combat engineer.

On June 14, 1947 he and the former Irene Corley of Canton were married. They raised one child, Jane Marie, who became a Canton grammar school teacher. In civilian life, he was employed as a custodian of the Galvin Middle School and the Dean S. Luce School.

For his military service, he was awarded numerous decorations and citations. The town of Canton is fortunate to claim him as one of its unassuming citizens of the Greatest Generation. It is with deep appreciation that the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Walter L. Bucci.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Edward V. Cogliano, Sr.

Perhaps it has been the desire to suppress the mental and physical scars of WW II. What else would explain the fact that for six decades their histories and vignettes have remained in relative obscurity? Only now, with some reluctance and prodding, do they agree to reveal some of their personal experiences which together comprise the human story of that epoch war and of the America which they built during the post-war period. His is one of those representative stories.

Sixteen years to the day preceding Pearl Harbor, he was born here in Canton. He completed grammar school at the Crane in 1949 and then went on to Canton High as a member of the class of 1943. Like most, his parents Vincent and Julia, wanted their son to acquire a good education as the stepping stone to a better life. Unfortunately, WW II intervened and their 18 year old son was soon an enlistee in the U. S. Navy where his father had served during WW I.

He held the rank of Machinist Mate 3/C as a crew member of the U. S. S. Alaska, a battle cruiser, which engaged the enemy in the South Pacific. Two of its notable naval engagements were at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. At Okinawa American naval forces aboard ships sustained more casualties than all other branches of service. A first hand account of some of the action notes how the Alaska gunners shot down suicide bombers and how the Alaska and others escorted the stricken U. S. S. Franklin out of the danger zone. He also took part in successive campaigns at Leyte Gulf, San Pedro Bay, Philippine Islands and on coastal sweeps of the East China Sea and Korea.

The Alaska received there battle stars and he was awarded 10 decorations. Ultimately, on May 20, 1946 he returned from the war and enrolled at Suffolk University. He graduated in 1949 with an accounting degree. In the following year on May 14th he and Mary Paone were married. They settled in their Canton home; raised three children; established an accounting practice and incorporated an insurance agency. Among his other commitments were – Trustee of Bank of Canton for 36 years, Executive Director and Financial Officer of the Veterans Housing Project (later renamed the Housing Authority) for 16 years; overseer of the Dr. Newell Hagan Housing for the Elderly; Treasurer of the new Blue Hills Regional School; instructor of accounting and member of the Canton Finance Committee for 8 years.

His retirement is well-deserved. Unfortunately, his wife of 54 years passed away in February 2004. He still makes the long commute from Cape Cod to attend the monthly Veterans' Coffee Hour and retains his Canton Connections.

For his exemplary life, both military and civilian, evidenced by this courageous naval service and contributions to his community, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Edward V. Cogliano, Sr.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

John W. Cushman, Sr.

Although born in Boston on December 11, 1917 he has lived his entire life in Canton where he grew up as one of a family of dairy farmers. Today, that raises a queried eye from anyone under the age of seventy. In fact, a number of small dairy farmers and producers existed in Canton. They typically owned a few Guernsey or Holsteins; performed the unrelenting daily milking routine, cut hay, cleaned the barn, processed and bottled the milk and finally delivered it to the customers' doorsteps. The raw unpasteurized product was available until legislated out of existence.

Our honoree passed his youth working in the Canton rural environment of the distant past. He attended the Crane School but left Canton High School in 1935 for the demands of the family farm. On June 18, 1942 he entered the U. S. Army and following basic training, the Army dispatched him to Argentia, Newfoundland in a unit which supported a naval base at that remote location. The glamorous stereotype of the wartime warrior could not be fictionalized at such duty stations around the world; instead, only the often unrecognized servicemen or women whose valuable contributions were essential in the grand scheme which led to ultimate victory. For 30 months he fulfilled his role of gun crewman and driver. At the end of 1945 he completed his 3 ½ years of military service at Camp Pickett, Va.

He and Jean Sakalaukas were married on September 17, 1950 and raised their three children, Donna, Cheryl and John Jr. here in Canton. For four decades he was employed by the Canton Department of Public Works as a foreman. His interests include extensive travel throughout the United States in their family camper, bowling and sports. During the 1960's he was an outstanding pitcher in the local men's softball league. Throughout his life he has maintained a strong following of the Braves baseball team which in his youth had been the Boston Braves.

This is an opportunity to say thank you for being a "good soldier" in the military and in civilian life over the span of 88 years. For that and with sincerity the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to John W. Cushman, Sr.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Augustine S. Decembrele

His great speed as a running back of the Canton High School squad of 1936 earned him the nickname of the famous horse, Seabiscuit. In 1935 he ran for two touchdowns leading his team to victory over Stoughton in the traditional Thanksgiving Day game. The 1935 squad won the State Class s C Football Championship. After graduation his parents brought him into the local retail enterprises which they owned and operated. The military's needs however took preference so that on April 21, 1942 he was inducted into the U. S. Army.

Trained as a military policeman, he joined Company I, 397th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division as a combat infantryman on the Western Front during the drive to final defeat of the German Army. After almost four full years, he picked up his medals, the American Theater Service Medal, EAME Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and his discharge before resuming his civilian life in Canton.

He and Ann Ciolfi were married and raised their family of two boys and one girl. Although being engaged in the management of family enterprises, community affairs have played a dominant role in his life. He has been President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Ponkapoag Civic Association, Chairman of the Canton Industrial Commission, member of the town charter commission, government advisory committee, a founder of the Downtown Business Association and chairman of the Recreation Commission. In 1994, the Blue Hills Civic Association recognized his many contributions to the town by naming him Citizen of the Year.

Today in further recognition of his extensive civic endeavors and his part in the epoch of WW II, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Augustine S. Decembrele.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Arnold G. Eardley, Sr.

Our honoree's origins were in Toronto, Canada where he was born on June 29, 1922. He attended grammar school there until the family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There, his father was co-owner of a patent leather firm. The leather business then brought the parents and their four children to Canton where the father became affiliated with the Porter Patent Leather Company.

In 1940 he graduated from Canton High School. Months following Pearl Harbor, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Fort Belvoir, Va. for training. Later elevated to the rank of sergeant, he took part in the island-hopping campaign to recapture the south Pacific from the Japanese. He participated in three separate landings on New Guinea with the Army combat engineers. For his service, he was awarded the Asian Pacific Ribbon with service star, Good Conduct, WW II Victory Medal and American Theater Ribbon.

In 1945 he married Shirley Gorman. They raised seven sons and daughters who still reside in Canton and the surrounding towns. One significant note about his post-war life occurred when he became one of the 19 WW II veterans who were winners in a drawing for building lots located at the corner of Dedham and Elm Streets. In 1948 Tobe Deutschman, a local industrialist, donated the lots to the veterans. Honor Village was to have been built at that location. Due to various difficulties, the project never materialized. Our honoree eventually resold his lot to John Adams, a local builder.

Widowed now for a number of years and retired from his position of head custodian at the High School, he recalls with nostalgia his departed Canton comrades, many of whom shared his long involvement in the Canton Softball League. During the 1950's he was elected Commander of Canton's VFW Post 3163 located at the old Sherman School property on Pleasant Street. The flagpole he helped to erect there still flies Old Glory to this day. He remains an avid outdoorsman with a passion for both fresh and salt water fishing. With deep respect for his demonstrated attributes of solid citizen and citizen soldier, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Arnold G. Eardley, Sr.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Elgin Eardley

In the late 1930's the family arrived in Canton by way of Milwaukee which had been their first stop from their origins in Toronto, Canada. The three brothers and one sister adjusted well to their new environment and certainly the Canton community welcomed them.

Our honoree went on to graduate from Canton High with the class of 1944. Very soon thereafter, June 15, 1944 to be exact, he entered the military service at Fort Devens. At the conclusion of basic training, he took part in the northern sector of the Italian campaign described as the Battle of the Po Valley. There he served in Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion of the 201st Infantry Regiment. The Army awarded him the American Theater Service and European Service Medicals with One Bronze Star as well as other decorations.

Upon his return and discharge on May 22, 1946 he attended Wentworth Institute and in 1947 married the former Josephine Cistenelli of Norwood. They raised their family of three girls and one boy here in Canton. In due time he served on the Canton Board of Assessors for six years, the Democratic Town Committee and for many years until his retirement as the Canton Tax Collector. His memberships include the American Legion, Canton Town Club and Knights of Columbus.

Due to prolonged illness, he is unable to be here today when we salute him for his outstanding military and civilian service by bestowing on Elgin Eardley the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Edward A. Estey

He bears a very old Canton family name which was passed on to him on his birth on May 9, 1925. The very proper teachers at the Crane School never could suppress the youthful exuberance and humor of his manner. He went on to Canton High School where he graduated with the class of 1942.

WW II had begun and 18 year olds were subject to call. He chose to enlist and on July 12, 1943 he was off to basic training. His total time within the Continental U. S. was a mere 6 months. Thereafter, it was spent at various stations in the European theater of war. On June 9, 1944, D-Day plus 3, he landed at JUNO with the famous 29th U. S. Army Infantry Division, 116th Regiment. His assignments ranged from forward observer to rifleman during the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. His decorations, citations and campaign ribbons beyond the renowned Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star are extensive and impressive. They were presented to him for his wartime service and for his enlistment in the Massachusetts Army National Guard during the period of 1959-1985.

He came home in 1946 to that golden era which followed WW II when America stood high above all nations and its young returning veterans tried to put their personal fears and horrors of war behind them by enthusiastically going about rebuilding their civilian lives. He and Florence were married on October 11, 1959. They moved to nearby Holbrook where they raised three children. He acquired a college degree in Business Administration and for 35 years filled the position of an Administrative Officer with the Department of Defense. Somehow, he also found time for the Massachusetts National Guard and for his work as a volunteer with the Boy Scouts and Little League.

With pleasure and gratitude for his extended military service and civilian contributions, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Edward A. Estey.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Harold H. Harkins

He and his wife, E. Rita, have never strayed very far from home and home is Canton where both were born. They maintain their residence in her parental home where they raised their three children.

Born on July 13, 1923 he went on to attend the Crane School. His high school years were cut short by the need to help the family finances. In 2000 he was one of the recipients of an honorary diploma from Canton High School in the Operation Recognition Program.

On March 13, 1943 he was called to active service. The Army sent him to Camp Lee, Virginia for basic training and after a short four months he shipped overseas to Scotland. Thereafter he was assigned to Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Division on the Continent.

He took part in the battles of Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland for which he received the European Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. After 30 months overseas he was mustered out of the Army and joined his wife as an employee of Draper Brothers.

He has been married for 46 years – one more than the span of his membership at the Canton Town Club. As an avid participant in the Canton Softball League, he played for many years for Draper Brothers and the Log Cabin teams. He is representative of the vast majority of the Greatest Generation who went off to war, performed ably, did their duty and returned to pick up their lives without demands for any unusual recognition. For a life which has included dedicated, honorable military service and hard work, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is present to Harold H. Harkins.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Warren M. Holmes

Of the numerous human interest stories which arose in Canton from the events of WW II, none is more intriguing that this one. What are the odds for a father and two sons to have served simultaneously in the same military unit? Probably no other such combination could be found among the entire 16 million Americans who were under arms in II!

The sequence of events was set in motion on July 22, 1925 in Canton where our honoree was born, the twin son of Henry and Lillian. He attended three of Canton's grammar schools – the Sherman, Gridley and Crane before moving on to Canton High School from which he graduated in 1943. At an early age he and his twin brother spent considerable time at their father's electrical and ignition shop in the center of town. A block away stood his grandfather's bicycle shop. With that background, the boys developed a keen interest in cars. At age twelve in 1937 they entered the annual Soap Box Derby at Suffolk Downs. Our honoree was the winner and his brother placed second, a fete of major acclaim at that time. They have preserved the two original cars to this day.

When the war began, their father enlisted in the Marines. In WW I he had served in the Army. In 1943 the two boys also enlisted in the Marines and soon found themselves in the same company with their Dad at a Hawaiian installation. The local papers published pictures at the time and made much of this truly unique occurrence.

Our honoree went on to participate in action at Saipan and Okinawa as well as a tour of duty in China. Before his ultimate discharge he rose to the rank of corporal. On October 16, 1947 he and Mary Gelpke were married. Her Army Air Corps brother was a casualty of WW II. They settled in Canton and he earned his degree from Northeastern University in 1953. He established his own business in Marshfield. Of their three children, one resides in Canton, one in Holbrook and a third in Connecticut.

Our honoree maintains an active membership in the America Legion and has served as the Senior Post Master of the Masonic Lodge in Canton. He takes pride in marching on Memorial Day with fellow veterans and also participates in the monthly veteran coffee hours. For his example of the ideal American boy, for his military contributions and for his continuing civilian commitments, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Warren M. Holmes.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Paul E. Keleher

He and Elizabeth married on June 28, 1947. They moved over the line to Norwood but even there the address retained the familiar Canton ring of --- Neponset Street. An older brother and four sisters rounded out the family which their parents, Daniel and Anna, raised in the BMnR (for non-townies, that's Bolivar, Mechanic and Rockland Streets). The St. John's Sisters of St. Joseph gave him a solid grammar school education in preparation for Canton High School from which he graduated in 1940. In his senior year he was elected captain of the baseball team and he also played quarterback on the football team. For two seasons the Canton Town Club had him filling the quarterback position on its semi-pro team.

On November 14, 1942 the U. S. Army called and shipped him to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. There, he made the all-star baseball team before setting sail for the European theater as a foot soldier assigned to the 16th Regiment of the Big Red One Division. He took part in the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns for which he received the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star and other decorations. One memorable action was the crossing of the Remeagen Bridge which was the subject of a famous movie. Today he recalls with some humor, "for a boy who couldn't swim, I had to cross three formidable rivers".

With the other millions of GI's he came home and began the career of a traffic manager in the field of transportation. In 1946 he was active in the formation of the Canton Softball League which began with such teams as the Neponset Woolen Mills, Plymouth Rubber, Tobe Deutschman, etc. Today he returns frequently to the Hemenway Senior Center for the sociability with his contemporaries. The monthly coffee hours and the Senior Men's Club list him as a regular.

The Distinguished Veteran Service award is presented to Paul E. "Sparky" Keleher as token of appreciation for his military service and as an acknowledgement of his lifetime of good citizenry.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

William P. Reynolds

For more than five generations Canton has been home to this family. In 1891 the grandfather opened a grain business here. Twenty years later the family contracting business was founded and soon a coal, ice and fuel company was launched. With that background, it was not surprising for our honoree to have gravitated to MIT in pursuit of a civil engineering degree. Prior to that, however, he had progressed through St. John's Grammar and Canton High School where he played center on the 1942 team. His three young siblings followed his footsteps at Canton schools.

He actually volunteered for the U. S. Navy on November 1942 which was his 18th birthday. In June 1943 he entered the U. S. Navy Pensacola Naval Air Training Center where he received his commission as a naval aviator, Lt. J.G. Before the war had ended he experienced a near-fatal crash while piloting a Corsair fighter at Suffolk Field, Va. On December 19, 1945 with his discharge in hand, he returned home and picked up his interrupted MIT studies. There he was elected captain of the MIT crew team which reached the final trials for the 1948 Olympics. As a result of a blind date arranged by his college roommate, he met and later married Ella Talbott on November 20, 1948. They raised five children in Boise, Coulee Dam, Westwood and Dedham but unfortunately lost one to a tragic auto accident in 1977.

Armed with his prestigious engineering degree, he set off to work on the Grand Coulee Dam project; other dams in British Columbia followed by the position of superintendent of the Lucky Peak Dam in Idaho. He returned to the Boston area as chief engineer for J. F. White Contracting. In 1956 he reactivated the contracting business of his father and set in motion a spectacular business career. From 1956 to 1995 he was a major player in the highway construction field throughout Massachusetts. Locally, he saved the Judge Grover home from demolition by moving and renovating it on another location. During the 1970's he became Chairman and co-founder of the Neponset Valley Bank & Trust Co. He initiated the formation of the Construction Industries of Massachusetts to serve the combined needs of Massachusetts contractors and of the state. From his position on the Boston Transportation Planning Review, he was the first advocate and moving force for the depression of the Boston central artery and for the construction of the third harbor tunnel. In effect, he is the father of the BIG DIG (but not the overruns).

Canton sees him with devoted regularity on every Memorial Day when he participates in the commemorative march to honor all veterans. In 1997 he lost his wife of 48 years. Five years later, he met Clare Porter who was on a pilgrimage to a religious shrine in Eaton Township, Ohio where our honoree was volunteering his engineering skills. They now are married and share their time between the family farm in Westwood and their home in Galway, Ireland.

With determination and foresight he has become an outstanding success both as a human being as well as an athlete, student, naval air officer, consultant, adviser and company president. At the same time he has promoted the well-being of his community and his state. For that and much more, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is present to William P. Reynolds.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Samuel Swardlick

At 145 pounds he ranks pound for pound, as one of the finest athletes in the town's long history of sports. He was born and raised in the High Street area; went through the Gridley and Crane Grammar Schools and graduated with the Canton High School Class of 1936. In his senior year he was a standout quarterback on the 1935 team which won the Class C State Football Championship. Later he played for the Canton Town Club team in the days of high caliber, semi-pro football. Baseball also held a special place among his extra curricular activities. He played for the Braintree White Sox, the Canton AA and served as Captain of Northeastern University's New England Conference championship team in 1940. After graduating from Northeastern University in 1941 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, he entered the U. S. Army Air Corps. He attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant bombardier in the 15th Army Air Corps 451st Bombardment Group, 727th Squadron. From his base in Italy, he flew 31 combat missions over Austria, the Rhineland, Po Valley, Apennines, Balkans and Central Europe. He earned the European Air Medal with 5 battle stars and 2 Oak Leaf clusters.

He and his wife, Shirley raised a family of two girls and a boy- Joan, Linda and David who in turn presented them with seven grandchildren.

His business career with Republic Pipe & Supply Company stretched from 1948 to 1984 as Vice President and later President. He maintained a long involvement with the Canton Recreation Department and Little League.

And now at age 86 he continues to be an enthusiastic, skillful golfer who shoots his age at Wampatuck.

In recognition of his illustrious military career and his civilian accomplishments, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Samuel Swardlick.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Chester Wentworth, Sr.

Swimming for his life in the deep, cold waters of the Atlantic off the coast of the Azores was not what he had in mind when he chose to become a "swabbie" rather than a "dog face" but that is what he and 600 other U. S. Navy sailors were compelled to do when their baby aircraft carrier was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. They had been both the hunter and the hunted. This time, the enemy submarine won out. After a few hours in the water and covered with oil from the sunken ship, they were picked up and packed shoulder to shoulder on an American Navy escort ship.

When he had been drafted on April 20, 1943, the choice was either the Army or the Navy. Probably the stories about good coffee and a warm bunk swayed him to pick the Navy. Following boot camp, he was assigned to the carrier U. S. S. Block Island. The ship made two convoy runs across the Atlantic to deliver P51 fighter planes to the Army Air Corps in Europe. When sunk, the ship was operating between home base, Norfolk, Virginia and Casablanca in North Africa.

After a short leave, he reported for duty in San Diego on the second, newly commissioned U. S. S. Block Island. Then he and his crew mates took part in the Okinawa invasion where the kamikaze air attacks took a heavy toll of U. S. Navy ships and naval personnel. At war's end, he was involved in transporting British prisoners of war from Japan to the Philippines. The Navy awarded him the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific campaign medal with two Bronze Stars and the Philippine Liberation Medal.

In 1945 he returned to Canton, the place of his birth and schooling – Gridley, Crane, Revere and Canton High School. He and his wife Beatrice raised their two children, Chester, Jr. and Karen. For ten years he was employed by Draper Brothers before joining the Canton Fire Department. Never one for fanfare, his heroics in time of war as well as his exemplary characteristics have stood out – for that Chester Wentworth, Sr. is presented with the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Donald E. Whitty

A search into anyone's background usually revealed something distinctive. In this case that "something" is not only distinctive but probably unique. Who else can claim to have graduated from St. John's High School in 1940 and Canton High School in 1941! In a normal sequence for those times, he had finished eight years of grammar school at St. John's and then went on to the three year business preparatory program at the parish high school. Then he took the unusual step and entered Canton High School for a senior year there. A slight suspicion exists that his intent in joining the high school golf team may have had some bearing on his decision. Nevertheless, this native born Cantonite who grew up with four siblings during the Depression, like so many others of his era, had to suppress much of his desire to be on the links in favor of seeking productive work.

In March 1943 at age 19, the President sent "Greetings". And inducted he was, first to Fort Devens and then Army basic training followed by aerial engineer schooling for him to join the Air Corps Transport Command. He rose to the rank of sergeant while stationed in the Pacific theater at Hickam Field, Hawaii. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific and American Theater Campaign Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals.

In 1946 he came home to pick up civilian life where it had been interrupted three years earlier. That included marriage to Connie in 1951, raising five children, taking night college courses plus attending to a managerial career in the insurance industry. Such a schedule did not deter him from volunteering his time on the Planning Board and the Dean Luce Building Committee. And yes, he has found time for his passion for golf at the Wampatuck Country Club. It is an honor to present the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to Donald E. Whitty for his lifetime of dedicated service in the military and in the community.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Louis LaBombard

His father crossed the line from Stoughton to marry his mother, Margaret Dempsey, a Canton native. They raised their three girls and a boy in the Hardware district of town until 1942 when the family moved to Rockland Street on the day our honoree graduated from high school.

Since his birth on September 12, 1924 he lived the happy life of a small town boy engaged in the popular pick-up games that were common in those days. As a product of St. John's Grammar and Canton High School, he did not have much time to consider life's possible choices when Pearl Harbor changed the course of his future. On April 20, 1943, a mere 10 months out of high school, he joined the U. S. Navy and reported for boot camp at Newport, Rhode Island. That was the beginning of his Navy tour which saw him cross the ocean ten times as his ship took part in convoy and escort duty in the sub-infested Atlantic Ocean. Crossing the international date line, the Arctic Circle and the equator today are his savored recollections rather than the fears of German U-Boat torpedoes. After a final crossing to deliver tanks to a Persian Gulf port where they were transferred to our then Russian allies, he redeployed to Pittsburg, California. There he joined the crew of the Donahue and then the Mulholland. They set sail with a full cargo of ammunition for the Aleutian Islands in March 1945. The journey ended at Okinawa where the decisive battle led to the end of the Pacific war. He was awarded the WW II, Victory Medal, the American, European, African, Middle Eastern and Asiatic Pacific Theater Medals.

On February 10, 1946 he shed his Signalman 2/C naval uniform and began the readjustment to civilian life. After completing his education at Burdett College in 1950, he took up a career in accounting.

He has been a popular and respected member of the Canton Town Club, Pocasset Gold Club and Wampatuck Country Club where he served on the Board of Directors. No longer a Canton resident, he alters his seasons between Pocasset and Fort Pierce, Florida.

In spite of physical infirmities, he participated in the weekly ceremonies dedicating street corners to the memory of the 46 Canton Fallen Heroes. The WW II service of this unassuming and likeable Canton son could easily go unnoticed and soon be forgotten as time fades the accomplishments of yesterday's sacrifices. Recognition at this time by bestowing the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to Louis LaBombard is a small way to state "You are not forgotten".

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

George E. Berteletti

He was born in Canton February 28, 1926 and has remained a life-long resident of the town. Son of immigrant parents, he attended the Revere and Crane Schools. Immediately after graduating from Canton High School with the class of 1943, he convinced his widowed father to allow this 17-year-old, only child to join the U. S. Marine Corps. On June 14, 1943 he marched off to boot camp. Following service time at the Newport, R. I. Naval Base, he shipped out to the Pacific and ultimately was assigned to the 6th Marine Division on Okinawa where he took part as a frontline BAR infantry man in one of WW II's most memorable and ferocious Pacific engagements – which for him extended from May 13th to July 2, 1945.

At the conclusion of the war, he served with the Marines in Tsingtao, China and also ferried prisoners of war from Korea. For his outstanding military service he was awarded the USMC Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star, the Presidential Unit Citation with Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Medal, China Service Medal, WW II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Ribbon and American Defense Medal. To record his experiences in WW II he wrote his autobiography which highlights his experiences in the Untied States Marine Corps.

In civilian life he became a member of the Canton Police Department where he attained the rank of sergeant. He graduated from Northeastern University with both an Associate and Bachelor's degree.

In time after the untimely death of his wife, Mary, he traveled to Gattinara, Italy, the birthplace of his parents. There he met and eventually married Elda Albertinetti on May 25, 1975. Over the past thirty years they made their home here and abroad. On one of their travels to Colorado, they developed a lasting friendship with a young Japanese couple which resulted in exchange visits to Tokyo, Canton and Gattinara. In so doing, they helped to replace deep wartime animosities which prevailed between Americans and Japanese with mutual respect and friendship. Yet his anxiety was such that he never revealed his past military background to their new Asian friends.

In addition to extensive travel, he now devotes his time to active participation in the Canton Veterans Honor Guard and the Canton Veterans Council. Just last September he co-organized the trans-Atlantic reunion and commemoration of émigrés to America from Gattinara, Italy. Unfortunately, at the conclusion of this notable three day celebration, he became seriously ill and returned to the United States for hospitalization at the Brigham/Dana Farber Hospital where he died on October 8, 2005.

It is with sincere appreciation for his outstanding military service and continuing efforts in behalf of veterans that the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented posthumously to George E. Berteletti.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Bryce Blakely, Jr.

It required some persuasion over the telephone and then only with reluctance did he reveal a few bare facts about his military service and civilian accomplishments. His concluding remark dwelled on the point that many others must be more worthy of recognition than he! Even a first call of introduction easily established that here is a man of sincerity and modesty.

Who is this individual? Does his birth on June 28, 1925 in Beverly, Ma. offer any insight? Probably not, nor does his family's move to Brookline in 1936 where he attended the Pierce School and then Brookline High School from which he graduated in 1943. Prior to actual graduation however he had already enlisted in the U. S. Army in April 1943.

Following basic training, he completed radio operator schools in South Dakota and Arizona. Soon he was filling the vital position of radio operator and machine gunner on a B24 in the 485th Bomber Group, 15th Army Air Force at Venosa, Italy. He took part in the air campaigns of Rome-Arno, N. Appennines, Po Valley and the Rhineland. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and earned the European Air Medal with four Bronze Stars, American Theater Ribbon, WW II Victory Medal, Air and Good Conduct Medals.

After the war he enrolled at Northeastern University from which he graduated as an electrical engineer in 1951, the same year he married Lillian and also was hired by the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. They moved to Canton in 1958 where they raised their two children and became active participants in town activities. Some of his contributions to the community include being a founder of Scholar Dollar and the Canton Helpline where he also served on the Board of Directors. He devotes much of his time to the United Church of Christ as a deacon, a choir member, serves on the Board of Trustees and past moderator.

He epitomizes America's Greatest Generation. Therefore, it is with the same sincerity which he displays that the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Bryce Blakely, Jr. for both his notable military service and his exemplary civilian contributions.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Eugene Calibani

Some years ago, a fortuitous meeting at the Charlestown Navy Yard during the rededication of the Marine Corps Barracks brought him into the circle of local veterans who are members of the Canton Honor Guard. The Cantonites immediately "took a liking" to this retired master sergeant whose string of hash marks, multiple ribbons and Stoughton residency offered more than enough fodder for some good natured jesting and interservice satire.

It was not long after that introductory meeting that he began to spend all of his days in Canton and just sleep and pay taxes in Stoughton. Who is this recently naturalized son of Canton? He was born on April 28, 1924 in Newport, Rhode Island where he progressed through the local public school system. His first entry into the military was on November 11, 1943 when he joined the Marines. He served through WW II, Korea and Vietnam, six re-enlistments for 24 years. At the time of his final discharge he had reached the top NCO rank of M/Sgt. Duty stations were many and scattered but one of his favorites was the post-war base at Okinawa where he had the opportunity to work with the Leper Colony Camp and where the Marine Corps awarded him the Meritorious Mast Award for promoting good community relations. Eight separate Good Conduct Medals were presented to him.

His understanding wife, Anna, of 57 years and their three children, Joan, Mary and Michael have lived through his many foreign assignments during his long military career. Now, they and grandchildren share his attention. But the demands for his time still come from many sources including Senior Citizen organizations in both Canton and Stoughton. Daily he is delivering for the Food Pantry or supplying donated pastry from grocery chains to the senior centers, fire stations, senior men's' club, veteran coffee hours or participation in the Stoughton Public School Title I Program. As the ranking NCO of the Canton Veterans Honor Guard, he commands the honor guard detail at the military funerals conducted in Canton.

This truly is a good man, a loyal comrade, a sincere humanitarian who has earned his stripes and worn them with pride and dignity. Canton is honored to have this opportunity to present Eugene "Cal" Calibani the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Robert P. Curtis

No other Cantonite can claim the distinction of having participated in Memorial Day parades for as many years as he has. Since 1933 when, as a young member of the Sons of the Legion, he began the unbroken, annual tradition of honoring veterans. In that earlier era, the marching veterans primarily were Canton's WW I doughboys. They included his Dad and other prominent locals who had founded the Edward Beatty American Legion Post 24.

He and his two brothers, Bill and Bud, were born at 288 Sherman Street. Dr. Dean S. Luce did not require much advance notice for him to assist in their home delivery since the good Doctor resided next door. On January 9, 1927 the youngest of the three boys came into the world.

He completed grammar school at the Crane and graduated from Canton High School with the Class of 1944. In his senior year in the fall of 1943 he was playing quarterback on Charlie Stevenson's first football squad. Canton had been humiliated in the previous year's game with the always powerful team from Walpole. In the 1943 rematch at Canton's Memorial Field, Walpole again was led by future Boston College and Patriot's quarterback, Butch Songin. This time, Canton, inspired by their new coach and talented quarterback, overcame the odds to win that memorable game!

Six months following graduation on January 8, 1945 he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard. After boot camp, he completed a course at Radioman School before being assigned to the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter, Clover, for patrol duty off the coast of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska. He was awarded the Honorable Discharge Button, WW II Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Ribbon. The end of WW II earned him an accelerated discharged in June 1946.

For the next forty-two years he served on the Canton Fire Department where his grandfather and father previously had been Chief of the Board of Fire Engineers. For thirty of those years he held the rank of Lieutenant. He and his wife Florence were married in 1962. They raised two children, Caroline and Robert Jr. Since May 1995 he has been a devoted volunteer with the Canton Food Pantry.

For his unselfish response to the wartime needs of his country and his continuity of family service to his community, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is present to Robert P. Curtis.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Robert L. DeYeso

Jimmy Stewart only played the part in "It's a Wonderful Life". Our subject has actually lived it. He sets the standard as a parent, husband, friend, citizen and former soldier.

Born on January 30, 1925 in Somerville to Italian and Irish parents, he grew up in nearby Everett where he graduated from high school in June 1943. Like so many of his contemporaries, the draft call came quickly. On July 16, 1943 he was inducted. A year later he was involved in the invasion campaigns of France, Belgium, Luxembourg and finally Germany. Throughout he was a rifleman with the YD Division. He suffered both the horrors of combat and the ravages of bitter weather. One morning in the Rhineland, he opened his eyes in a snowy foxhole and discovered his frozen feet would no longer support him. Although proud of his numerous decorations including the Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star, he nevertheless espouses the futility of war as a solution.

Following his discharge from the Army in 1946, he enrolled in Boston College from which he graduated in 1950, the same year that he and Betty were married. They moved to Canton in 1951 where they raised five children. After 51 years of happy marriage, Betty's cancer took her from him in 2001. Three years later he and Carol were married. Between them, they have 27 grandchildren.

Although retired from a long managerial career with the Social Security Administration, he remains very active in town of Canton affairs. Formerly a Personnel Board member, he works diligently now to promote the agenda of the Council on Aging and Senior Center Planning Committee. He is a proud member of both the Veterans Honor Guard and the Canton Veterans Council. Everett's loss has been Canton's gain. This man is the living symbol of good citizenship. With unanimous acclaim and gratitude, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Robert L. DeYeso.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Edward W. Dockray

Even a quick summary of the heroics of so many from the Greatest Generation would require much more than a few simple paragraphs. Certainly this native son's lifetime accomplishments extend well beyond the limits imposed by time and space.

He was born on December 28, 1918; attended St. John's Grammar School, graduated from Canton High School in 1936 and immediately went on to Bentley School of Accounting where he was enrolled for three years.

Five months following Pearl Harbor, he joined the U. S. Marine Corps and for the next 37 months he served in the Corps with the rank of corporal. Twenty-seven of those months involved Pacific Theater duty at Guadalcanal, New Zealand, Bougainville and Guam. His service records make specific reference to his active engagement against enemy forces at Guam from August 11th to November 3, 1944. On May 27, 1945 he was discharged and he resumed his education at Northeastern University.

On June 7, 1947, he married Louise. They raised three boys together while he became a corporate accountant at Gillette for 20 years. In 1965 he was elected to the position of Canton Town Treasurer where he remained through 1985. His long period of service to his community included three years on the Canton School Committee, two years on the Zoning Appeal Board, Director of Canton Housing Authority where he was instrumental in securing the Hemenway School for development for housing for the elderly. Over many years he devoted his time and talents as an officer, manager and umpire-in-chief for the Canton Little League. In the late 1960's he was a moving force in organizing Canton's youth hockey program. For many years he also served as a trustee of the Bank of Canton.

After such an extensive and productive career, he and his wife are enjoying the rewards of retirement at their winter home in Florida but Canton is never too far. They return every summer to their roots, their friends and their family.

As a small but sincere token of appreciation for his loyal and dedicated service to country and community, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Edward W. Dockray.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Charles W. Ford

He arrived in Canton ninety years ago at the age of one. The date was 1915 following his birth a year earlier in Boston.

He is a product of St. John's Grammar and St. John's High School, Class of 1933. The high school offered a three year curriculum in business which included typing, shorthand and related subjects. Upon graduation, he expanded his shorthand skills to become an accomplished stenographer. Over his civilian lifetime his mastery of that particular skill placed him in demand for his services as a court reporter for the Public Court System, the Boston US District, the Boston Civil Service and the Probate Court in Boston. In addition, for many years he served as the official stenographer at all the Canton town meetings.

The Army also needed him from July 21, 1942 to April 7, 1946. Wars are fought not only on many fronts but also in many ways and not always with standard weaponry. In this case, he performed his duty attached to the War Department which now is called the Defense Department. As a corporal, he served directly for the WW II Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, in Washington, D. C. and at overseas conferences. Look closely and he may show up on one of those old "March of Time Newsreels".

In September 1949 he and the former Agatha DiBella were married. After raising a family of three boys, they have devoted their empty nest years to being good citizens of their beloved town and as loyal supporters of their parish.

In recognition of his unique contributions in WW II and of his government service, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Charles W. Ford.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Howard A. Hanson

The youngest of eight siblings, he was born on April 27, 1935 in Ponkapoag where he attended the Ponkapoag School and then the Eliot. His years at Canton High School were cut short when he enlisted in the U. S. Navy in March 1943. Following boot camp at Newport, Rhode Island, he was assigned to the 6th Naval Beach Battalion at Camp Bradford, Va. and later to Fort Pierce, Florida for further advanced training as a combat unit specializing in establishing beachhead landings.

From his unit's base in England on June 6, 1944 he took part in the greatest military invasion in history. The 6th Naval Beach Battalion was attached to the Army 5th Special Brigade Combat Engineers in the assault on Omaha Beach. For their heroic effort which led to the successful conclusion of WW II in Europe, the 6th Naval Beach Battalion was awarded the Army's Presidential Unit Citation. He received the Croix de Guerre with Palm from the French Government, a decoration which stands out among the many ribbons and medals that he earned during his military service. For future generations to not forget what he and his fellow Americans accomplished there, on the hill above the cliff overlooking Omaha Beach rises a monument dedicated to the heroes of the 6th Naval Beach Battalion and the 5th Army Special Brigade of Combat Engineers.

After the ravages and brutality of war which he had experienced he took up the peace and tranquility of music at the Shillinger House School of Music in Boston. For 38 years he has been an active member of the Canton American Legion Band and 27 years with the Aleppo Shriners Band which contributes to the support of 19 orthopedic and 3 burn hospitals in America.

In June 1953 he married Marjorie Schick of Somerville. Now retired from General Motors Corporation, he and his wife enjoy participating in the lives of their three grown children from the quiet comfort of their home on Walpole Street

It is indeed an honor to recognize Howard A. Hanson with the Distinguished Veteran Service Award for his significant military record in WW II and for his continuing civilian contributions.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

John Henning

This man from the Bronx discovered Canton and now both communities proudly lay claim to him. Born to German immigrant parents, this only child was only three years old when his father died. He and his widowed mother were compelled to move twelve times before he began high school. The mother suffered from a serious arthritic condition which precluded her from working. They eventually took up residence on Long Island for him to attend Valley Stream Central High which had a superior academic reputation. The school lived up to its reputation and its teachers had a lifelong positive influence on him.

Whether working as a shoe shine boy, delivering papers, selling for Fuller Brush or as a page on Wall Street, he excelled. After graduation and back in the Bronx with his mother, the draft board deferred him because of his family responsibility. Nevertheless, a year and a day following Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Navy. Following boot camp and special schooling at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, he transferred to Newport, Rhode Island where he once again volunteered for P. T. Boat Training.

In short order he found himself in the Pacific theater of operations. There, he and his 13 shipmates took part in one dangerous mission after another on both PT 134 and PT 129. The frailty of the wooden hulls was offset by their speed, fire power and the superior military skills of the dedicated crew. They battled both the enemy's surface ships and its air squadrons. In one engagement during the Philippines invasion, he suffered serious wounds and the perpetual mental anguish from the loss of fellow crewmates. The Navy awarded him the Bronze Star with a V and the Purple Heart.

In civilian life, his successful business career required frequent transfers. Canton so enchanted him and his wife Ginny that he gave up his position rather than change residency again. Instead they raised their three children here and have participated actively in the town. He has served on the Canton Industrial Development Committee, managed in Little League Baseball and was Boy Scout Commissioner.

His outstanding military record and highly productive civilian life are most deserving of recognition by this presentation of the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to John (Jack) Henning.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Lillian Jennison Staples

She volunteered for active duty with the U. S. Navy on December 14, 1944 and served until discharged on August 1, 1946. WW II opened the way for women in the military. WACS and WAVES were the product of the war. Even greater numbers of women took up the challenges of the production lines in every phase of American industry. They truly became "the women behind the gun". Our honoree served in both civilian and military capacities during the great struggle.

When recalling those days of 60 years ago, she speaks in terms of the home front – about collecting metal, tires and tinfoil; about rationing of meat, butter and gasoline; about neighborhood air raid wardens, bond rallies, school children's weekly stamp purchases towards a war bond, about donated work time for the Homecoming Fund.

At age 20 she enlisted in the WAVES and went off for training at Queens College in New York which was supplemented by IBM school. She then was assigned to the Naval Aviation Supply Depot in North Philadelphia where she recorded the disbursement of supplies to U. S. Naval ships.

Upon her discharge her thoughts on the train home wandered from her parents and siblings to her days at the Sherman and Crane Schools, to her Canton High experience and to her unknown future.

Her military schooling at IBM opened the doors to a new specialized field which her employer, Norfolk County Trust Company in Stoughton called "machine accounting". The computer world was in its infancy and for the next five years she was involved in it as it evolved from punch cards, sorting machines and mainframes.

In June 1960 she and her husband Ralph were married and settled down on Wardwell Road. There they raised their two daughters, Susan and Carol. Except for social activities of the Community Club and the American Legion, their lives are spent in the well-deserved serenity of suburbia.

For her pioneering part in opening the role of women in the military and for her unassuming steadfastness in civilian life, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Lillian Jennison Staples.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Arline F. Love

She calls herself a feminist in the old sense of the word. That translates to mean "never having a sense of being inferior – just entitled to the same things as men".

A brief synopsis of her life reveals that not only is she entitled but that she has more than matched any man in comparable situations. Born in Braintree, she came to Canton with parents and three siblings, all of whom graduated from Saint John's School. In 1947 she completed her high school education at Mt. St. Joseph Academy in Brighton and then enrolled in the nursing program at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. In 1952 following two years as a surgical assistant, she followed her childhood dreams of a military career by joining the U. S. Air Force. At Williams, Chanute, Barksdale and Clark Air Force Bases she was the operating room supervisor. During her tour at Gunter Air Force Base in Alabama she received her flight nurse designation.

Her military career was cut short by a 100% disability which necessitated her retirement with the rank of Captain. In spite of serious physical problems which limited her mobility, she went on to earn a B.S. in nursing from Boston College and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Washington.

In reality she has never really left the Air Force. She has been President of the Society of Retired Air Force Nurses, a member of the U.S.A.F. Retiree Council in New England and Director of Hanscom Retiree Activities Program since 1984 for which she has been recognized and cited for superior service to the needs of retirees from all branches of service. Here in Canton she is a charter member of the Council on Aging, Director of Canton Nursing Association, volunteer driver for FISH. She managed the first Canton Health Fair in 1971, established a Health Promotion Program for the Elderly in 1970 and currently is on the Canton Veteran's Council and only woman in the Veteran's Honor Guard.

For her tenacity in overcoming physical adversity, for her 53 years of dedicated military service and for her numerous volunteer endeavors, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented with universal acclaim to Arline F. Love.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Henry Oi

The fact that he was born in Canton on November 19, 1917 raises no particular amount of curiosity until the qualifier is added – China!

He did not come to America until he was three years old. After the first few years of grammar school, the family returned to Canton, China and not until he was 17 years old did he see the U.S.A. again.

Too old to attend public school, he relearned English by listening to the radio in his father's laundry shop. Through extensive reading and dedication to self-study, he acquired his education at home.

On February 5, 1944 the U. S. Army drafted him. Without a formal education, he succeeded in gaining an appointment to Officer Candidate School from which he graduated among the top 10% in the class. He became a 2nd lieutenant bombardier on a B24 Liberator based in Bunguay Village, England. Through the rest of the European campaign, he flew 35 combat missions over Northern France, the Rhineland and Normandy. For wounds he was awarded the Purple Heart and for his service he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters and the European Theater ribbon with three Bronze Service Stars.

Upon his discharge in 1945 as a 1st lieutenant, he opened and successfully operated a number of restaurants in Boston and Connecticut. He and his wife, Betty with their six children moved to Canton in 1964. He is active as secretary of the Chinese Merchant Association of Boston and was a founder of the Boston Chinese American Legion Post 328. In his youth, he was recognized for his outstanding abilities as a volleyball player.

He typifies the American immigrant spirit of entrepreneurship and patriotism for which the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Henry Oi.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Roy W. Plant

In the 30's and 40's Canton was not sufficient as an address. One had to specify the Junction, Hardware, BMnR, Canton Corner, York Street, Springdale, Ponkapoag, etc. As one of the Junction boys, he grew up on Jackson Street and attended the nearby Revere School for eight years. His stay at Canton High School included freshman and sophomore years only. The final two years of high school were at Boston Trade School.

In September 1943 he joined the U. S. Marine Corps where he served with the Fleet Marines aboard the USS Wasp for two years until his discharge in the fall of 1945. The USS Wasp engaged enemy naval and air forces in a wide area from Guam to Japan itself. Our honoree's performance is best summarized in the July 21, 1944 written commendation by the Captain of the USS Wasp which states:

> **"is hereby commended for his ability demonstrated in action at his gun stations as a 20 mm. gunner while undergoing dive bombing attack by Japanese planes. He showed exceptional courage and leadership in the face of falling bombs and strafing which enabled the ship to shoot down five Japanese planes."**
> **Two other similar citations were issued to him for bravery in action.**

Married to Alyce since August 28, 1947 and parent to three children, he has been self employed in civilian life where he purposely attempts to maintain a low profile and to enjoy each day.

The wartime citations and commendations by his commanding officers on the USS Wasp speak for themselves. In the true spirit of a citizen warrior, he did his duty gallantly and then returned to the obscurity of civilian life. The Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented with pride to Roy W. Plant.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Madeline Cajolet Wood

No one would be surprised by the deduction that Emile Cajolet and Laura Demers Cajolet were of French heritage. They resided in Cambridge, Ma. with their four children including our honoree who was born on February 3, 1923. She was bilingual at home and her French was reinforced at Notre Dame de Pitie Grammar School. At Cambridge High and Latin School she continued a close friendship with her classmate, Vivian Marcotte. They became tennis doubles champions and our honoree also held the tennis singles champion title.

With the onset of WW II, all the boys of her graduating class were joining the various military branches of service. She and her girlfriend decided to enlist as well. After much persuasion, her parents finally consented to her entry in the U. S. Navy. On June 29, 1943 she arrived at the Naval Training School in the Bronx and later completed further training in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Her permanent assignment was at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D. C. Meanwhile, her tennis partner had joined the Marines and coincidentally was stationed nearby in Washington. Our honoree was promoted to Yeoman First Class and received the American Theater, Victory and Good Conduct Medals.

At war's end she had sufficient points accumulated for a discharge; however, her commander would not release her until a civilian replacement became available. The delay caused her to miss two semesters at Boston University where she had been accepted. As a result she altered her plans and enrolled at Bryant & Stratton Business School. Following graduation she worked for many years in Boston at American Mutual Insurance.

Her residency in Canton dates back to 1955. In 1962 she lost her husband, Stewart Morash. On June 12, 1971 she remarried. She and her husband, Robert raised two children, Robert, Jr. and Kathleen as well as her first born, Richard Morash.

Her activities include that of lector at St. John's Church. She is a loyal supporter of veterans' activities. It is a pleasure to acknowledge her devotion to duty and good citizenship in war and peace by presenting the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to Madeline Cajolet Wood.

Ed Piana
2005

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Robert V. Andrews

The post WW II years saw a rapid growth in Canton's population. A human interest story lies behind each of those family relocations to this community. In his case, a friend had built a new home here. After coming to see it, he and his wife Lillian decided that Robinwood Drive offered them just what they wanted. So in 1955 they left Dorchester and began a new chapter in their lives in Canton. Here they would raise five children and never look back from their serenity in the suburbs.

Boston had been his birthplace on June 7, 1921. Small of stature, he had to forego organized sports at Roslindale High School where he attended and from which he graduated in 1938. He found employment at the Old Economy Grocery Store chain and later felt very fortunate to land a job at the Boston Navy Yard.

On July 13, 1942, pending his draft call, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and left for Louisiana where he trained on the famous Higgins boats. In time he was assigned to the Mediterranean theatre of Naval Operations. There he joined Squadron 15 of P. T. boats,
the largest group of its kind at the time. He and his fellow crew members on PT 201 took part in actions on the North African coast against the Africa Corps; the invasion of Sicily, the Battle of Salerno, the Anzio Beachhead and others. When General Mark Clarke, Commander of the 5th Army, commandeered PT 201 for his personal use to review his army's precarious foothold at Anzio, the ship took a hit from a German 40mm shell which killed two crew members and wounded four more. Luckily he survived to fight in other engagements until June 1944 when he was transferred to the U. S. for deployment to the Pacific. At Pearl Harbor he served in a sea rescue unit for the remainder of the Pacific war.

In December 2, 1945 he picked up his discharge, a long list of medals and for the last time shed his Motor Machinist Mate 1st Class Navy blues. In civilian life he rose to the position of purchasing agent at a hardware supply firm from which he retired in 1991.

He and his wife of 57 years lead a full life engaged in various activities that include bowling in an over 50 league. Seasonal golf is part of his routine as well. He has volunteered his time to the Knights of Columbus Council 2095 for more than 20 years. He remains active in the Canton Retired Men's Club and when possible, he reunites with old shipmates at P. T. Boat conventions.

Robert V. Andrews is a most worthy recipient of the Distinguished Veteran Service Award for his extraordinary wartime service in both Europe and Asia and for his exemplary record as a Canton citizen.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
Nick Bartone

Throughout his soon-to-be-celebrated 89 years, he has never driven an automobile. Yet he is one of the most recognizable figures in downtown Canton where he completes his errands daily on foot. For the past 60 years, such has been his routine – barber shop, cleaners, grocery store, etc. The merchants know him as their pedestrian customer.

Canton was not always his home. He was born in Waterbury, CT in 1917 to parents who had immigrated from Naples in 1902 They met in the Little Italy section of Waterbury. He and his younger siblings, Michael, Rocco and Teresa all attended local public schools and eventually entered the local work force. The three boys would go on to serve in different branches of the service during WW II.

On April 21, 1942 he was drafted, processed through Camp Edwards on Cape Cod and received his Army training in Alabama. Along the way he became friendly with a Canton soldier, Michael Vendetti, who invited him to Canton on a military pass. This led to an introduction to Michael's sister, Mary, who was destined to become his bride.

In short order, his unit shipped overseas to Belfast, Northern Island where his unit spent many days engaged in unloading Liberty ships. As the Allies moved from a defensive posture to one of offense, his unit transferred to Liverpool, England as a prelude to partaking in the invasion of North Africa near Oran, Algeria. Our honoree landed in the second wave of troops. They met resistance from the Vichy French forces although later, the French converted their allegiance to the Allies.

Duty in Algeria also included missions to Malta where they delivered supplies by LST to the Brits. Ultimately, he sustained injuries which caused his repatriation to a military hospital on Long Island. He was discharged on March 19, 1944 and received the European, North African campaign ribbons and medals.

He and Mary were married on September 3, 1944. When it came to a choice of Waterbury, CT or Canton, MA, naturally Mary's preference prevailed which was Canton.
Here they raised their two children, Barbara and John. Meanwhile, our honoree worked at the local industries before becoming a maintenance employee for the Canton School Dept.

In 1980 after 15 years, he retired. With an inciteful, basic philosophy, he reflects on WW II as one which we had to fight and win. He has silent reservations about any of the succeeding conflicts while acknowledging the need to follow the rules of established authority and the judgment of elected national leaders.

The Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Nicolas Bartone for his unselfish devotion to duty in WW II and for his unassuming, quiet example of good citizenship in civilian life.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Nelson D. Batchelder

Future generations of Canton residents will look back upon him as one of this towns most illustrious citizens. Without question the honored place he presently holds in the Town of Canton is well deserved. He jokes about his ancestors landing in Salem – one a tailor, the other a horse thief. Nevertheless, his grandfather arrived at the end of the 19th century to take a position at the Neponset Woolen Mills. Parents Nelson and Marjorie resided on Grant Street when he was born at Norwood Hospital on October 9, 1927 attended by Dr. Dean S. Luce. Although his Danish family name belies the fact, he thought he was Italian growing up on the hill surrounded by the Alfieri, Boggiala, Crevola, Dardano and Verzoni clans. The family later moved to Bolivar Street which brought about his transfer from the Revere to the Crane School.

In the war years at Canton High, Principal Bill Donovan encouraged him to accelerate his entry into college and recommended that he aim for the best – Harvard University. Following his freshman year, at age 18 on February 5, 1946 he volunteered for the U. S. Army at Fort Banks in Boston. From there he went to Fort McClellon in Anniston, Alabama for basic training. He soon found himself in Germany as part of the American Army of Occupation. The military's primary needs then had changed to that of soldiers schooled in reconstruction and winning the peace over the dangers posed by a defeated and demoralized German population which was being tempted by a Soviet ideology born of despair. He was put on special assignment in the Constabulary which used his ingenuity and self reliance to locate proper housing for American officers and their families. The mission had now become one of diplomacy and defense rather than open warfare. One of the sidelights of his overseas tour was his voluntary attendance at the Nuremberg Military War Tribunal where 21 Nazi war criminals were tried and convicted for their crimes against humanity.

On August 12, 1947 he received his discharge at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey and soon thereafter resumed his studies at Harvard. Upon graduation, he was accepted at nearby Tufts Medical School. He and the former Lois Parker were married on August 15, 1950. The rigors of medical school did not cease with graduation. Internship at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford required strenuous demands on his medical skills as well as long hours with little renumeration. In 1958 he began his four decades of medical service to the citizens of Canton. It was a time when general practitioners were expected to treat and heal every type of ailment.

Today he reflects on the high points of his extremely rewarding and fruitful life. The foremost milestone is his 54 years of happy married life which unfortunately was cut short in 2004; the birth of their three children, the unique experience of his military duty and the many years of service he has rendered to Canton patients. For the past 43 years he has been the Canton School physician and for much of that time, the physician for the Blue Hill Regional School as well.

Canton, with obvious justification is very proud of her native son and today is extremely pleased to bestow the Distinguished Veteran Service Award on Dr. Nelson Batchelder. **Ed Piana - 2006**

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Charles J. Campisano

Never can it be said that he spent a lonely childhood. The household where he was born on July 17, 1918 consisted of his parents, Joseph and Veronica, as well as three sisters and seven brothers. Five of those brothers served in WW II.

Following his years at the Balch Grammar School, our honoree went on to Norwood High School from which he graduated in 1937. He was fortunate to find employment during that period of worldwide depression. Leisure time rarely included the luxury of joyriding for very basic reasons – no cars, no money. He did manage to venture into Canton occasionally where he frequented the roller skating rink then located at what later became the Strand Theater. There he met Ella, his future bride. The late 1930's courtship must have been on a solid foundation for it endured through the succeeding war years.

Both he and Ella served in the military for the duration of the war – he in the infantry; she in the WACS. His duty began on February 21, 1942 at Ft. Devens. From there he went on to Fort Meade for basic training and then to England. On June 6, 1944
- D-Day - he was part of the first wave of American troops to assault Omaha Beach. As a member of the 116th Regiment 29th Division, his platoon leader designated him to be the company runner which is an infantry MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) for a "ground pounder" who dashes from one position to the next with whatever urgent message or material needs to be delivered in the face of enemy fire. History has recorded the successes of the 29th Division not only on D-Day but in the ensuing campaigns for the conquest of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and ultimately Central Europe. Our honoree deservedly received the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, ETO Company Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars in addition to other citations. After three full years of overseas duty, he returned to his original station at Fort Devens for his discharge on September 28, 1945.

When he and the former Ella Fraccalvieri were married on April 21, 1946, they took up residency here in Canton, her hometown. At Bird & Son in Walpole he resumed his civilian working career as a foreman until his retirement in 1984. He and Ella saw their family grow to include a son and two daughters who in turn presented them with seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Two years ago on the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, the Canton Veterans Department honored him with a commemorative certificate in acknowledgement of his bravery and outstanding service to his country. Today, this presentation of the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to Charles J. Campisano is a reaffirmation of the national debt owed to him and to the other courageous warriors of that epic war.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

William C. Cravens

Some athletes quickly go to seed upon retirement. Not this one! At 80 years of age his 6' 4" frame carries the same 180 pounds recorded on his discharge papers of 60 years ago. Genes usually need an assist which he religiously renders with almost daily regularity. He can be seen walking the length of Pleasant Street at a vigorous and spirited pace.

Of the three sons born to Edward and Hyla in Huntington, W. VA, he alone remains. There he attended the Commack Grammar School followed by Huntington High School. Within 6 months of graduation, he was drafted into the U. S. Army and following basic training, he shipped out to join the 65th Infantry Battalion of the 20th Armored Division where he served as an infantry soldier on a half track, the forerunner of today's armored carrier.

The unit landed in France, fought through Germany and found itself in Bavaria on the Austrian border at war's end. While transferring to a repo-depot in France, his military train was involved in a wreck which took the lives of a number of soldiers who had survived the actual hostilities. The 20th Armored Division was quickly deployed to California in preparation for the anticipated assault on mainland Japan. With great relief to combatants everywhere, the Pacific war came to an end without the need for the invasion. For his gallantry, he received the Combat Infantry Badge, two battle stars plus an array of commendations and unit citations.

Our honoree was discharged whereupon he resumed his college studies at Marshall University in Huntington. A year preceding graduation in August 1948 he and Frankie were married. With his newly acquired degree and highly-sought-after skills of a program and production manager, he was sought out by Sylvania. Later Raytheon, a Massachusetts company, recruited him. Thus the young couple left W. Virginia for Framingham, MA, Hampton, NH, Billerica and ultimately on November 1, 1961 they settled in Canton where they remained permanently. In the intervening years, they raised their family of two boys and two girls who also have made their homes in and around Canton.

In college he had excelled at basketball. Here in Canton he volunteered his time as a coach both in the Canton Youth Football program and Canton Little League baseball.

Regrettably, in 2003 his bride and partner of 55 years passed away as a victim of cancer.

And now, may his agile strides continue to propel him along in full view of passing vehicles and pedestrians. Let his athleticism stand out as a visible symbol of the greatness of this generation, of their accomplishments and of their contributions in both war and peace. To William C. Cravens, an excellent representative of that glorious generation, is presented the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Graham S. Donlon

A resume replete with accomplishments defines this Canton figure. Although not a born native of Canton, he did not need to travel very far as his roots were in nearby Hyde Park where he was born on April 24, 1922. Following grammar school years at St. Raphael's, he went on to graduate from Hyde Park High School in 1942.

In October of that same year he joined the U. S. Navy. As a Signalman 2nd Class, he served aboard the destroyer USS Winslow after completing boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. The ship assumed an important role as a sub chaser in the Atlantic and as a convoy escort. Nothing however could compare with its mission on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when it led the naval landing crafts to Utah Beach on the Normandy coast Through the mine-infested waters of the Channel, his ship maneuvered to a short distance from shore where it directed traffic and drew heavy fire from shore batteries It managed to avoid the fate of many other ships which took direct hits and were sunk. The incredible bravery of those America seamen and their fellow ground troops on that fateful "longest day" turned the tide toward victory in Europe.

For his bravery, he received the Bronze Star, the French Croix de Guerre, and numerous other decorations.

He survived the war and received his discharge in January 1946; attended Bryant & Stratton; married Louise in September 1950; settled in Canton, raised three children and was employed by Kellogg Cereals. He has actively sought to remain engaged in numerous community activities. At Norwood Hospital he volunteered 4000 hours and also volunteers at Jupiter Hospital in Florida. American Legion Post 24 recognized his leadership skills by electing him Commander. He has served on the Memorial Day Committee. For a period, he held the position of Veterans Service Officer in Canton; was in charge of food distribution to the needy and oversaw the local fuel oil program. He is a life member of the Knights of Columbus. He compresses most of that in the months when he and Louise are not enjoying Florida winters.

Long overdue is the moment for this brief pause to recognize and appreciate such a life of outstanding service by presenting the Distinguished Veteran Service Award to Graham H. Donlon.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Harold M. Drake, Jr.

The road which led him to Canton took a number of turns. With the benefit of hindsight, he would have arrived a year earlier when 20 choice, raw acres of land were available for a very modest price. Instead, he put off the decision for a year until 1957 when he and his spouse, Olive, purchased a pristine lot and built their home on York Street. She was a native of nearby Milton. Also, two of her sisters resided in Canton. That and the lure of real country living convinced them that they should settle here and to raise their family of two boys and two girls, all of whom are proud graduates of the Canton public school system.

Thirty-six years earlier on October 2, 1921 he was born in Brockton. His family had roots in Abington and North Easton. Both the maternal and paternal branches labored in the thriving shoe industry of the time. Later, the family moved to Hyde Park where he attended the Fairmont Grammar School. He and his best friend enrolled in Boston Latin School. Getting accepted then was not an obstacle for the 800 freshmen; however, the rigorous four year program of America's renowned and oldest public high school produced a 75% dropout rate. Our honoree thrived on the demanding classical curriculum. It taught him how to study, he says. Upon graduating in 1940, he went on to Tufts University as an economics major. While there, he entered the Naval ROTC program; the only sophomore at the university to be accepted. In February 1942 he entered the US Navy and on February 26, 1944 he received his degree and officer's commission. While on a brief leave on June 3, 1944 he and Olive Snow were married. They had met while both were working summer jobs at the Milton Spring Bottling ice cream stand on Rte 28 in Milton.

Soon he was assigned to the U.S.S. Salt Lake City, a heavy cruiser, in the Pacific Fleet. His duties as a deck watch officer and then as a turret officer put him in the fore-front of both offensive and defensive naval actions against the enemy in engagements off the Aleutians, the Philippine invasion, the Iwo Jima landing and the battle for Okinawa. The U. S. Navy suffered the highest number of casualties, more than the Army and the Marines in Okinawa, the biggest battle of the Pacific War. Kamikaze planes attacked the assembled US fleet in desperate efforts to win the campaign for control of the Japanese home islands. Our honoree and his ship survived while all around the casualties soared. To record his contributions and to recognize him for his bravery, he was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Medal with 3 stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with 1 star, the WW II Victory Medal and other citations.

On February 26, 1946 he shed his uniform and his bars to reenter civilian life where he rapidly climbed the management ladder in the employ of H P Hood & Sons. The same drive and determination which he had manifested in his wartime experiences were carried over into his post war activities as well. On top of the demands of his daytime managerial roles, he added the rigors of B. C. Law School evening classes. He graduated in 1966; passed the bar and became a practicing, self-employed Canton attorney for the next 40 years.

His lifetime of dedicated service includes 20 years on the Canton Housing Authority, former membership on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, Conservation Commission; Police/Fire Building Committee and 2004 Master Plan Steering Committee. He is a past president of the South Shore Viking Club and a deacon of the United Church of Christ.

Other nations around the world often ponder over what constitutes the true American persona. They need to look no further for the distinguishing qualities and attributes of dedication, competitiveness, charity, resoluteness and generosity demonstrated in the civilian and naval service of this outstanding Canton citizen. In recognition of his exemplary life of unselfish sacrifice for country and community, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Harold M. Drake, Jr.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
Roland L. Duguay

Without question, the military has played a significant role in his life. Born in Fairfield, Maine on May 25, 1920, he entered the Army a mere two weeks after graduating from Anson Academy in June 1938. His unit, the 5th Infantry Regiment, transferred from Portland, Maine to Plattsburg, NY for training before assignment to Panama where the regiment constructed its own camp. Soon he was promoted to Sergeant and to the National Color Guard. During an inspection tour, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reviewed the troops and actually saluted him as the official flag bearer of the 5th Regiment. In June 1941 he returned to the U.S. for discharge at the Brooklyn Army Base. After marriage to Rita Richard in January 4, 1942 and while employed at the Bath Shipyard, he was recalled to active service on May 4, 1942. Following assignments at Fort Knox, KY, Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Ord, CA, his unit, the 776th Amphibious Tank Battalion, shipped out to the Pacific where they joined General Kruger's 6th Army for the invasion of the Philippines. He went in on the first wave. His unit's light tanks made numerous landings within the Philippines and cleared out enemy forces to secure emergency landing fields for Navy carrier pilots. In one instance he was wounded by mortar fire.

It was Easter Sunday morning in April 1945 when his 776th Amphibious Tank Battalion next landed on Okinawa as part of the 10th Army which consisted of two Marine and two Army divisions under the command of Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. General Buckner's father had won the Medal of Honor in the Civil War and now unfortunately, the ill-fated younger Buckner would become the highest ranking American officer to be killed in battle during WW II.

Our honoree recalls the Okinawa landings as unopposed by the Japanese. By nightfall a nine mile beachhead had been established by the 60,000 American landing forces. The Marines moved northward and found little resistance; the 7th and 96th U.S. Army divisions slugged it out against the main concentration of Japanese in the south. Later, all four American divisions moved south against the determined Japanese defendants. During the campaign, the Japanese brought in 700 aircraft, mostly Kamikaze, in an effort to stop the American advance toward Japan. It turned out to be the bloodiest battle of the Pacific. Over 100,000 Japanese died plus a similar number of Okinawan citizens. American casualties were more than 4600 US Army dead, 3200 US Marine killed and the Navy lost 5000 men primarily from the Kamikaze attacks which sank 34 American ships. The losses influenced President Truman's decision to use the A-Bomb.

For his valor and service he received Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with Bronze Service Arrowhead, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars plus a number of other medals and awards. He departed the Pacific and headed home to Fort Devens where he was discharged on November 9, 1945. He and his wife, Rita, settled in Canton where they raised their four children. He became a self employed contractor during the post-war boom.

In later years, he further refined his work to finish carpentry until his retirement in 1982. Both he and his wife have remained active members of the American Legion Post 24 and they participate fully in Canton Senior Center programs. For his extremely long and dangerous service to his country before and during WW II and for his continuing activities in veteran affairs at the local level, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Roland L. Duguay.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

William H. Estey

In his youth he was referred to as "Eddie's brother"; today he has progressed to "Cathy's husband". Those are his own self-assessments of his distinguishing characteristics. Others might describe him as unassuming, understanding, tranquil and patient in contrast to his older brother who would be classified as more audacious, spirited, adventurous and outgoing.

In any case, those descriptive adjectives belie the solid inner core of this native son who was born on January 28, 1927. He began his school years at the Sherman and then proceeded to the Crane School. In 1945 he graduated from Canton High School. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy on February 2, 1945 prior to graduation and was activated at the end of the school year. After completing boot camp at the Naval Training Center in Sampson, NY, he attended medical nursing school at Brainbridge, Maryland. WWII was winding down; a high priority at that point was the care of disabled and wounded veterans returning from the various theaters of operation. Our honoree joined the medical staff at the Chelsea Naval Hospital where he remained for his full term of service. Meanwhile he and brother Eddie would correspond and banter about their respective roles-one crossing the Charles, the other crossing the Rhine. In both cases, the faithful discharge of their respective duties was vital to bringing about the successful conclusion to that epoch worldwide conflict. On July 19, 1946 he was honorably discharged at the Boston Naval Separation Center.

In civilian life he chose a career in retailing where he rose to a management position. His employer transferred him to Connecticut. There he met and married his wife Catherine who is a native of Stafford, CT.

Ties to Canton have never been severed. Brother Eddie remains in a nearby Massachusetts community, sister Betty is a Canton resident and his mother Elizabeth at 99 lives at Rubin Court which gives him reason to return for occasional visits to his home town.

In Westport, CT he is a member of the Masonic Lodge which hosts an enormous reception for up to 800 United Nations employees. He also is active in the local police association activities to promote sport teams and patriotic parades.

William Herbert Estey is presented the Distinguished Veteran Service Award for his lifetime of unpretentious devotion to duty and his conscientious citizenship both of which are distinguishing attributes of America's success.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Philip Fama

In so many instances life's turns are guided by some obscure event. In our honoree's life that event occurred when, as a young boy, he caddied at the Blue Hill Country Club which at the time stood out as the premier course south of the Country Club in Brookline. The club was identified as the mecca of Ben Morse and other local illustrious citizens. John Ford held the position of golf professional until war's end when Blue Hills was sold and he moved on to the less prestigious nine hole Wampatuck Country Club.

Caddying was one of the very few opportunities for young boys in those days to earn spending money – usually 65 cents and a soda drink for 18 holes of service. One of the Blue Hills members decided to gift his caddy with a used 3 iron. This cemented our honoree's singular love for the game of golf and it influenced his later preference for the Navy over the Army – walking for him was to be on the links rather than ground pounding in the infantry.

He was born in 1924 in Boston where his parents had resided for a short time. They returned with their first-born to Canton, their original home since 1916 when they had immigrated from Sicily. His father's income as a factory worker left little opportunity for home ownership until he managed to win a lottery prize of $1000 which he immediately used as a down payment on a new $5000 residence on Lawrence Street. In time two other siblings came along, Frank and Mary. Each of them attended St. John's Grammar School. Our honoree quietly graduated from Canton High School in 1942 where golf was his only sporting interest.

It was at this point that a number in his age group volunteered for the Navy rather than await the draft call. On April 16, 1943 he reported to Newport, RI for boot camp followed by an assignment to Norfolk. VA. His first ship was the USS Vulcan, a transport used for deliveries to Trinidad. His permanent assignment came along when the U. S. Navy exchanged 6 American destroyer escorts for 6 British corvettes. He became a crew member on the corvette, USS Tenacity, which escorted large convoys in the North and South Atlantic. Their primary weapon was the depth charge used against marauding German submarines. He recalls vividly events such as his initiation upon crossing the equator for the first time and the joys of meeting fellow Cantonites – Joe Thompson in Virginia, John Cushman in Newfoundland and Ermus Cametti in Recifi, Brazil.

As the war came to an end the USS Tenacity sailed to England where they re-exchanged ships. In 1945 he found himself awaiting discharge at the Fargo Building in Boston. Instead, he received orders to report to Fort Pierce, Florida on December 23. Finally on February 22, 1946 he obtained his separation papers. This Seaman 1st Class had been accorded the American Campaign Ribbon, WW II Victory Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Area Ribbons plus $92 travel and food allowance for his trip from Florida. Fifteen cents covered the cost from Canton Junction to Canton Station.

In 1950 he and Patricia Odell were married. They raised a family of three children – Philip, Marcia and Cynthia. For 35 years until his retirement in 1986 he worked for Northrop Corp. and its predecessors. He has retained his great love of golf as a playing member of the Norwood Men's Retired Golf Group which includes other former Cantonites.

The Distinguished Veteran Service Award presentation to Philip Fama serves as a simple token of recognition for his quiet devotion to duty throughout his life both as a seaman and a civilian.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Lawrence A. Gillis

What immediately stands out in a conversation with this veteran is his obvious and unashamed expression of love for the town of Canton. He says "I am not a townie –I have only been here since 1953". From that basic introductory remark he proceeds with superlatives to express his views of his community. To the question "how did you happen to settle here", he goes on to say that in 1953 he and his wife Ruth were looking for a home in the suburbs which would combine a bit of country living with good schools. Walford Park and Canton schools met the criteria of their search.

He had been born on July 23, 1923 in Dorchester to a large family of seven sisters and two brothers. Following St. Mathews Grammar School, he attended Woodrow Wilson Jr. High and then Charlestown Memorial High School. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1943 he entered the military service at Fort Devens; took basic training at Camp Polk, Louisiana and shipped out to the 49th Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division of the 3rd Army on the Continent. In the ensuing battles he was awarded three Bronze Service Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge. In May 1945 when the war in Europe ended, his unit had fought its way to the Austrian border. One more move and they found themselves face to face with the Russians at the Czech frontier.

On February 2, 1946 he picked up his discharge at Fort Devens and began a 35 year civilian career with Greyhound Lines. After retirement, he spent another 13 years as a dispatcher with the Plainville Police Department. For two years he utilized his GI Bill to attend Boston University evening classes.

Back on May 18, 1947 he and Ruth Eivers were married. While on leave an Army buddy had introduced them prior to his overseas assignment. Ruth was from Long Island, New York yet she immediately and whole heartedly adapted to Massachusetts. She also won the heart of her mother-in-law and she reciprocated with love and affection.

Together, the young couple raised their family of two boys and a girl. Regrettably, she passed away in July 1993. Without reservations, he exclaims that marrying Ruth was "the best thing I ever did in my life" which certainly is a tribute to her and to the institution itself.

In his youth he enjoyed the traditional American games of baseball and football. Later he developed a liking or hunting, fishing and bowling. When his children were participants, he coached Little League baseball – now, in the period of full retirement his morning routine does not deviate from two cups of tea and a complete review of the daily newspaper. He hopes to find time in July to attend his 8th Armored Division reunion at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

A life of good citizenry, devotion to family and heroic wartime service to country deserve recognition and remembrance. For his accomplishments and attributes, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Lawrence A. Gillis.

Ed Piana - 2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Harry Hinchliffe, Jr.

Very few today can lay claim to attending Canton's Sherman School. The school no longer exists but it remains an important part of Canton history.

Roger Sherman, its namesake, lived at the corner of Pleasant and Independence Streets. Both Sherman and Independence Streets derive their names from the patriot who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Later he became mayor of New Haven, CT.

Our honoree who was born on August 31, 1926 began his school years at the Sherman School before moving on to the Crane. He completed two years at Canton High before enlisting in the U. S. Coast Guard. His boot camp began at a maritime service center in New Jersey which was followed by six weeks at Newport, RI. From there he joined the crew of the U.S.S. General Weigel in Bayonne, NJ. The troop ship made two successful crossings of the Atlantic without incident; however, during the third crossing, the convoy was attacked by German U Boats which sank one of the American ships.

At that point the General Weigel moved from the North Atlantic to the Pacific theater of operations where it continued its unglamorous yet dangerous and essential mission of ferrying troops and supplies during the island-hopping campaigns against the Imperial Japanese forces.

On May 18, 1946 at the Coast Guard Separation Center in Boston he received his discharge and returned to Canton where his grandparents had established their roots since their arrival from England in the 1800's.

He and his wife Lillian have continued to make their home here. In 2000 he was one of the group who was awarded a special Canton High School diploma in recognition of their curtailed schooling to answer their country's call.

Now retired from a long career as a technician, he is an active member of the VFW, the American Legion and the Canton Town Club. After more then 60 years, this brief pause is taken to acknowledge the unselfish devotion to duty demonstrated by Henry Hinchliffe, Jr. to whom the Distinguished Veteran Award is presented.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

James J. Igo

Without question his war record speaks for itself. It covers an action-filled series of campaigns which defined much of WW II in Europe.

Like most of the 16 million American men and women who took part in the "Big War", he was not a professional soldier but rather a citizen who put aside his civilian life for the regimentation and dangers of conflict when his country called.

On January 21, 1921 he was born in Manchester, N.H. His family moved to Canton in 1922 where his father had a job opportunity. They made their home at the site of the famous Doty Tavern which had burned to the ground in 1888. The Doty Tavern at the foot of Blue Hills on what is now Route 138 served as the meeting place in September 1774 for the representatives from local surrounding towns. Convened as a County Congress, they debated their options and possible responses to the oppressive acts of King George III. Those discussions led to the famous Suffolk Resolves which were than formalized in Milton to be carried by Paul Revere to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. One hundred seventy years later two brothers would meet the challenge of a worldwide war in which one would give his life and the other his full measure of service.

After the Ponkapoag and Eliot grammar school years, he graduated from Canton High School in 1938 and went on to Boston University for 1 ½ years. Three months following his marriage to Mabel Stone, he entered the U.S. Army and went off to Camp Davis in N. Carolina for basic training. This was soon followed by overseas assignment to Europe and the resulting battles which his 217th AA unit took part in for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe to the Austrian border and Hitler's Eaglesnest at Bertchesgarten. Many of the battles have faded from memory but the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge will always stand out – and he was part of those historical engagements. He survived without physical wounds yet bore the psychological trauma from the loss of so many others in his unit of the 3rd Army including Arthur Thomas and John Gately, both from Canton and of his own brother, Dana, who was killed in action on a B-24 bombing raid over Austria in May 1944.

In October 1945 with the rank of sergeant and well deserved medals and decorations, he came home to resume family life. Over the years the family expanded to four children, all of whom still reside in Massachusetts. He successfully established himself in the home construction business. He became the president of the Pleasant Circle Improvement Association on four separate occasions. In 2003 he was inducted into the Canton High School Hall of Fame for athletic achievement which in part was recognition for his 1938 accomplishment as the New England Scholastic Champion in the one mile run.

While the Distinguished Veteran Service Award never can equate to his military and civilian accomplishments it nevertheless is bestowed at this time to James J. Igo, heroic native son, as a token of appreciation and regard by the people of Canton.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Andrew T. Johnson

How often does a seemingly inconsequential event later turn out to be a pivotal factor in the course of life? In his life, a love of horses influenced his choice of high schools, his military specialty, and his marriage partner.

He was born in Canton on January 24, 1923 to parents whose family trees stretched back to the Curtis, Tate and Johnson lines old established Canton stock of multiple generations. Sisters Winifred and Ruby and a brother, Gilbert, completed his family. He attended the Gridley for six years and finished his remaining two years of grammar school at the Crane. From there, he moved along to Canton High School but transferred to Norfolk Agricultural School in Walpole for the remaining three years. His interest in horses led him to choose the agricultural high school.

Following graduation in June 1941 he was employed by Russell Coal & Oil whose dire needs deterred him from an early enlistment in the Army Air Corps. On April 23, 1943 however, his civilian employer's wants were superceded by Uncle Sam who drafted him and assigned him to Ft. Riley, Kansas, the home of the Cavalry. Unfortunately, the horse dominated ground force had long since passed by and replaced by mechanized units which proudly retained their cavalry designations from the Civil War.

He soon found himself in England followed by Normandy on D-Day plus 5 where he served in the lst Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop of the Big Red One Division in its battles through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and ultimately to Czechoslovakia. At one point, this mobile unit had ventured 50 miles into enemy territory ahead of the front lines. Among the encounters he participated in the biggest American land battle of WW II – The Battle of the Bulge. At the end of the war his unit met up with the Russians in Czechoslovakia.

On December 15, 1945 as a decorated corporal he returned stateside to receive his discharge at Fort Devens, MA. For a time he was employed at Mack Motor Company in Boston but soon, he again joined Russell Coal and Oil Co. until his appointment to the Canton Fire Department from which he retired in April 1987. Forty years earlier on March 28, 1947 he and Phyllis St. Laurient were married. Although she was a Canton resident, they met at a horse auction in Natick. They built their home next to his parents on a lot purchased from his cousin, Dr. Ben Tate. They raised two boys, Wayne who lives in R.I. and Bruce who is a Canton resident and who followed his father's foot steps on the Canton Fire Dept. Regrettably, his wife passed away three years ago.

When asked about his pastimes and hobbies, he instead mentions good friendships, past and present with Bud Farwell, Billy Buckley, Bob Leger, Chester Wentworth and others, some of whom enjoyed a common interest in bridge playing and square dancing. As a veteran, he is a loyal participant in the monthly Veterans Coffee Hours where old soldiers keep alive the distant memories of their military experiences.

For his contributions to his country in WW II and for his examples of unassuming good citizenship throughout his life, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Andrew T. Johnson.

Ed Piana - 2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Albert R. Kenefick

In answer to the question about the most significant event in his life, he responds firmly that his marriage to Lena stands out above all else. During a lifespan of 85 years much has transpired, yet his 57 years of marriage outdistances all else which is a tribute both to the institution of marriage and to his connubial partnership.

On August 4, 1921 he was born in Canton to his parents Frank and Josephine. The paternal family could trace its local roots to his grandmother Healy who had come to Canton from Ireland in the early 1800's. The maternal branch of Josephine Tuci had arrived much later.

Grammar school at the Crane was followed by Canton High School in the class of 1941. There he played on the football team but claims he never had much passion for sports. Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 changed the course of life for everyone. In his case, it involved enlisting in the Marine Corps on January 22, 1942. He would not return to civilian life for almost four full years. The Corps sent him to San Diego for his training which he regards as learning to obey and take orders- something the Marine Corps imparts without prejudice or preference on all recruits. From there he shipped out to Kodiak, Alaska; then back to the continental USA and ultimately to partake in the invasion of Okinawa in April 1945. His matter-of-fact account of his part in the greatest battle of the Pacific campaign would make the listener imagine a cruise ship excursion to a serene island of palm trees and pineapples rather than the horrific war of brutal death and destruction. His unobtrusive demeanor is not a false disguise but rather a genuine characteristic of a man who answers "none" to the question of military awards and decorations when in fact, that is not and cannot be the case. Instead, he emphasizes that he is simply an ordinary citizen who did his duty and belongs to no organizations. Today, he enjoys writing for himself and has compiled a series of notebooks not to be shared with others during his lifetime.

Upon his discharge on December 4, 1945 he took up a career of personal sales from which he gained a keen ability to understand human nature. On August 17, 1949 he and the former Lena Giammarco were married. They raised a family of four children who have gone off to their own successes.

In short, the saying 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things" certainly fits the profile of Albert R. Kenefick and for that he is presented the Distinguished Veterans Service Award.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
George B. Lehman

Westinghouse Corporation offered him a choice of assignments – Pittsburg or Boston. For obvious and good reasons, he chose Boston. Massachusetts would become his permanent residence even though he switched from Westinghouse to Payne Elevator Co. where he held the position of Vice President and Sales Manager during a career that spanned 35 years. At the outset, he had arrived in this area from Long Island, New York where he was born on October 1, 1925. Following parochial grammar school, he graduated in 1942 from Murray Hill, a boys' private high school in New York City. Years later he would also attend Pratt Institute, in their engineering program. Nineteen forty two also was the year when he volunteered for the U. S. Army Air Corps. Not many months later he was on his way to the Pacific. His crew flew a new B-24 bomber from the U.S. to Hawaii where they were assigned an older plane. For three years his plane and crew took part in the coordinated ground air and sea island-hopping campaign to drive the Japanese back to their home islands. In one particular engagement, the squadron's lead plane was shot down over water leaving bailed out crew members stranded in unfriendly waters. From the air, our honoree radioed for help and he pin-pointed the location for a U. S. Navy submarine to complete the rescue. At Okinawa, where Army and Marine divisions were engaged in fierce battles, he and his squadron of planes rendered full support to the ground force by their low-flying strafing of enemy positions. The plane's home base continually changed as the campaign moved north-west toward Japan. By war's end for his many combat air missions he had been promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 clusters, the Pacific Theater Ribbon with 4 stars and other citations.

Although discharged at Mitchell Field, NY on October 17, 1945, by early 1946 he had volunteered for U.S.A. Force Reserves. In 1950 when the Korean War broke out, he was recalled to active duty. His employer classified him as an essential employee needed to refit naval ships for the new and unplanned war, thus exempting him from a new tour of duty.

As a new arrival to Massachusetts he roomed with other young men who were establishing themselves in the area. Hard work also required time for leisure which for him often meant dancing at Mosley's on the Charles. There he met Jeanette Walsh. They were married in April 1953. Now they take pride in their five grown daughters and an enjoyable life in their Sherman Street home and their previous residence on Pleasant St. In years past he had held the post of President of the Springdale Civic Association. He also served on the Democratic Town Committee. Lost Brook Golf Course takes up some of his time yet he manages to manicure the grounds of his expansive property.

With heartfelt acclaim for his heroic service to his country during the prolonged war in the Pacific and for his productive civilian life, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to George B. Lehman.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

John E. Loverro, Jr.

Unlike the majority of recipients, he is classified as a "short-timer" to the Town of Canton rolls. After the death of his wife in 2000, he settled in Canton at the home of his widowed sister, Tina. Up to that time, East Boston had claimed him from February 29, 1924, the Leap Year date of his birth.

During his years at East Boston High School from which he graduated in 1941, he enjoyed the color and pageantry of the drum and bugle corps. Whether that can be classified as a plus or a minus for his future military career depends upon one's point of view. In any case, the drum and bugle corps experience in drill and ceremonies opened the way for his assignments in the Army.

He was inducted on April 8, 1943 and following basic training he soon headed for Europe to participate in the Allied invasion of the Continent. The timing was not D-Day but rather, another fateful period – the Battle of the Bulge, which took place in December 1944. Unfortunately, his troop ship was torpedoed in the English Channel resulting in a heavy loss of life. He went over the side somewhat less fearful than most due to his swimming abilities gained from his youth in the East Boston coastal waters. Eventually pulled from the cold waters on Christmas Eve 1944, the survivors regrouped at Cherbourg. They took up positions in St. Lo and moved with the flow of battle to Salzburg, Austria and a final encampment area near Hitler's Eagles Nest.

For his service he received the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and other decorations. On November 29, 1946 he shed his uniform and sergeant stripes at Fort Devens, MA. and resumed his civilian life. Today he reflects on a fulfilling active military experience as well as a career with the MA Dept of Unemployment and 22 years in the MA Air National Guard. His two sons have located on Cape Cod and Hawaii. He indulges in two pastimes – reading and crossword puzzles. In addition, he is a member of the VFW, the Order of the Purple Heart and the Knights of Columbus.

A sincere welcome is extended to this relatively recent citizen of Canton for his WW II engagements and his 22 years in the Air National Guard. The Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to John E. Loverro, Jr.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Lloyd E. Mills

Like his fellow honorees and the great majority of the 16 million Americans who served in WW II, he proved to be a loyal, dedicated citizen soldier who answered the call of duty during one of his country's darkest hours and who simply did his duty as best he could. They came from a generation of few expectations. Born during the Roaring Twenties and subjected to the deprivation of the Great Depression, they never spoke in terms of Rights. In its place, Responsibility formed the basis of their family upbringing and school indoctrination. Our honoree fits that profile. His adult life follows the pattern of the typical WW II servicemen and women. They performed admirably in uniform and returned to build a post war American that became the envy of the world.

It all began on May 14, 1925 when he was born to his parents, James and Dinia, in Portland, ME. Life was never lonely among five other brothers and sisters. In 1943 he graduated from South Portland High School. Two months later he entered the U.S. Army
at Fort Devens followed by training at Bradley Field in CT as part of the 882nd Airborne Aviation Engineer Battalion. After more training at other stateside posts, the unit went on to Pittsburg CA for the Pacific crossing to Finchafen, New Guinea. There his unit was attached to the 5th Air Force He participated in the successful invasion of the Philippines. At that time he learned that his brother had been shot down over Austria and was captured by the enemy. Early in 1945 due to depleted ranks, the 882nd was merged into the 872nd Engineering Battalion which then took part in the battle for Okinawa. There he suffered a broken leg at the conclusion of the Pacific campaign. He returned to
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts to receive his military awards and his discharge on December 19, 1945.

He enrolled in the University of Maine from which he graduated in 1951 with a degree in Civil Engineering. In that same year on June 23 he and Mary were married in a union that would last for more than 50 years until her death one year ago. They settled in Canton in 1955 to be near his work and closer to her parents. Here they raised their six children, became members of the Ponkapoag Civic Association, enjoyed some gardening and occasional golf.

His professional engineering career has concluded; however, he continues on as the business manager for the Ponkapoag Civic, participates in local veterans activities and enjoys the company of his children.

For his exceptional service to his country during WW II and for his exemplary and industrious contributions to the growth of post war America, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presen6ed to Lloyd E. Mills.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Aldo Napolitano

Only a few can point to a military career that began prior to WW II and did not conclude until the onset of Vietnam in 1962. His was one that began with the intent of an enlistment in the Army Engineers in 1939. Unable to do so, he turned to the Army Air Corps which welcomed him because of his skills learned at Hemphill Diesel Engineering in Brookline. There he had attended following graduation from Hyde Park High School in 1933. So it was that when Pearl Harbor was bombed, he was stationed at Albrook Field in the Panama Canal Zone as a member if the 74th Bombardments Squadron.

Their mission covered both the Atlantic and Pacific along the approaches to the Panama Canal. The canal presented a key target of German U Boats in the Atlantic and Japanese subs in the Pacific. America's need and ability to move ships and material from one ocean to the other depended upon the continuing function and integrity of the canal. His anti- submarine force patrolled the two oceans in low flying searches for the underwater enemy. When spotted, depth charges were dropped but more often, no confirmation of a kill could be determined. The canal remained in tact and no submarine succeeded in shutting down the Isthmus.

On one occasion in 1941 our honoree was on a rescue mission of a crew which had been reported lost over Panama. The B-18 search plane hit a mountain resulting in the death of all the other crew members and the miraculous survival of our honoree who managed to crawl away from the wreckage and although seriously injured and bleeding, made his way through the jungle along a fast moving, snake-infested stream to a primitive native hut from which he eventually was evacuated by a military team.

After spending 5 weeks in Gorgas Hospital Canal Zone where he recovered from internal and leg injuries, as a Master Sergeant he reported to Goum Field, Idaho, went to Portugal on a special, secret mission and then returned to Clovis, New Mexico as crew chief of a B-29 bomber. WW II ended shortly after he had attended OCS at San Antonio where he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He left active service but enrolled in the Air National Guard. During the Berlin Wall Crisis he was activated and his unit, the 102nd Tactical Air Wing, was sent to the French/German border for a 13 month period. Upon discharge from the Air Force in 1963 he had attained the rank of Lt. Colonel and had earned numerous medals including the Bronze Star and Air Medal.

He and his wife Carmela were married in 1947. They made their home on Greenbrier Road with their three daughters. A widower since 1997, he now resides in Pembroke.. During his curtailed civilian employment he had been a supervisor with the U. S. Postal Service. He managed to find time to volunteer as a director of the Meruin Filee Clinic for animals in Brighton and the Red Acre Farm in Stowe. Not wishing to put his military completely to rest, he devoted four years to training Civil Air Patrol Cadets.

His long, illustrious military career and his notable civilian life certainly have earned Aldo Napolitano the Distinguished Veteran Service Award which is presented to him at this time.

Ed Piana - 2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Joseph Francis Ronayne

Whistling has been his lifelong trademark. Whistling while he worked, while at play, in public and in private – surely his way of signaling that a new day is born, all is well with the world and the best is yet to come. Whistling then defines his optimistic personality.

He was born in Canton on December 23, 1923 to parents Maurice and Mary. His mother was a Fitzgerald from Stoughton, his father an immigrant from Waterford, Ireland who had come to America at age five. In his adult years at Draper Mills, the father was known for his kindness, understanding, and assistance to the succeeding wave of immigrants who struggled with a new language and customs at work. These parental traits would become prominent in their six children.

Our honoree attended St. John's Grammar School and Canton High School from which he graduated in 1941. He continued his education at the Bentley School of Accounting, now known as Bentley College. On April 20, 1943 he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and reported for boot camp at Newport, R. I. Upon completion, he shipped out to the South Pacific where he was stationed at Esperitu Santo in the New Hebrides. After three years and five days of duty, he had recorded awards of the American Theater, Asiatic Pacific, Good Conduct and WW II medals. In 1946 he came home and resumed a career in banking with the Norfolk County Trust Co. In the early 1960's he left to take a position with the Canton Institution for Savings where he served until his retirement.

His public service record has been both extensive and intensive. For over 50 years he volunteered as an usher at St. John's Parish. Fifty years ago he managed the polio March of Dimes campaign in the Town of Canton. He held the position of treasurer of the Canton Knights of Columbus for 20 years as well as that of treasurer for the Canton Historical Society. He served on the board of the St. John School Association and the Canton Public Library and as a trustee of the Bank of Canton. For nine years he devoted his time and talents as a member of the Canton Finance Committee and the Canton Industrial Finance Committee.

Fifty-five years ago on June 16, 1951 he took time out of his full schedule to marry the former Lucy Fama. Today, he cites their happy marriage and their three children as the most significant events in his life.

On this occasion, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to Joseph Frances Ronayne, Canton's Happy Warrior, for his unselfish and unassuming lifetime contributions to the military and to his community.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

Louis Snapper

When 20th century America is reduced to history, the accounts undoubtably will focus on the people of that century, their ingenuity, their diversity and ultimately their coming together to create this colossal country which is unparalled among nations. Truly, the talents and contributions of individual citizens will be recognized as the source and essence of America's continuing success story.

Some of those attributes stand out in the life of our honoree. He was born on February 25, 1926 in Boston where he attended Pauline Agazzis Shaw Grammar School. His grades must have been exceptionally good for Boston Latin School to have accepted him for both junior and senior high school. After graduating with the Class of 1933, he attended Harvard University under the Army Military College Program while in the Army Reserves. On March 17, 1944 at the Commonwealth Armory he entered active military service. Training stops at Fort Belvoir and Fort Monmouth were followed by infantry training at Fort Benning. Ga. On June 7, 1945 the Separation Center of Fort Devens released him to civilian life.

"What do I do now" was the question many service men faced in that first year at the conclusion of WW II. Our honoree joined his brother as a watchmaker trainee in the Jewelry Building in Boston. Along the way, he and Dorothy were married. In 1961 they had decided to purchase a home in Randolph; however, the transaction was cancelled which compelled them to resume their house hunting. They found just the place on Tilden Road in Canton. They never looked back and went on to raise a family of two boys and a girl in their adopted town. In the meantime, he changed his work specialty to that of insurance broker. His progress was exceptional and he was recognized in the industry for his noteworthy accomplishments.

For many years he devoted many hours to the Little League, first in the minors and ultimately he worked his way up to the position of local director and senior director of District 8 which encompasses a number of surrounding towns. Finally he served a term as Canton's Little League Commissioner.

Born with a resonant voice, he enjoys singing in the choir of Temple Sinai in Sharon. It also serves as an outlet for his secret desire to have been in show business. Today, Louis Snapper is being recognized for his talents at work, at play and in the military by this presentation of the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGUISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

James P. Whelan

That devastating global conflict named WW II consumed mankind for five horrific years. The war not only changed the course of history but also impacted the lives of every American in one form or another. Who we are and where we are today in some way can be traced to the influences of WW II.

One direct consequence was the tremendous housing boom and migration which ensued in Canton and other suburban communities. The major influx to Canton of new residents from the core Boston area took place at that time. In 1950 our honoree and his bride Mary left Cambridge to follow other family relatives who were moving here from South Boston. In Canton they would raise their two boys and become fixtures in this community's life. He would succeed in a career as a sales manager and later be self-employed in the flooring business. Our honoree rose to the position of Grand Knight in the K of C; volunteered as an active worker for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Canton Handicapped Committee. He has maintained a proud membership in the American Legion, DAV and VFW for many years.

It all began at Fannie Farmer Candy in Cambridge where he and Mary were employed during their teen years. She was from Southie and he had gone to St. Mary's Grammar School, then to Cambridge High & Latin School. They lost touch until one day after the War when they recognized one another on Tremont St., Boston. However, he needed a little coaxing from a friend to reintroduce himself. The encounter flourished into romance, then marriage on June 20, 1948.

Much had transpired between the Fannie Farmer factory days and their chance meeting on Tremont St. He had entered the Army on March 9, 1943. After basic training at Fort Brag, NC he attended a special school to become a forward observer, a military euphemism for one who is thrust into the jaws of danger ahead of his unit. Events moved quickly at that stage of the war. He shipped out on the Queen Mary to Northern Ireland, than Scotland, England and on D-Day + 2 to the French coast as a member of the 200th Field Artillery attached to General Patton's Third Army. Normandy, St. Lo, the Bulge, Rhineland, Central Europe are some of the historic battles in which he participated. He was awarded the Bronze Arrow Head, 5 battle stars and an array of citations for his outstanding service. His artillery unit often was thrust in the forefront to soften up enemy resistance with its 155 cannon fire power.

Somewhat counter balancing the daily diet of death and destruction, a few signs of hope for a new brighter, resurrected world emerged. Certainly, being part of the American Army marching proudly along the Champs Elysees to the welcoming applause of liberated Parisians; the recovery of the famous Lipizzaner horses at the Spanish Riding School in Austria and meeting up for a shared moment with the Russian troops on the Czech border were positive high points in his military experience. They also were moments signaling that finally, the end was near. For him that day was the day of his discharge on November 4, 1945.

In his own words, the happiest period was coming home to his mother and five brothers who also had served and survived the Great Struggle. He adds that 58 years of happy marriage plus wonderful children, their wives and grandchildren have fulfilled life's expectations. With no need for further explanations let it simply be said that for his truly American experience, the Distinguished Veteran Service Award is presented to James P. Whelan.

Ed Piana
2006

DISTINGISHED VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
Milton Zola

His origins and youth mirror the confluence of cultures which prevailed in the Boston of pre WW II. His parents had arrived in America from the Russian Ukraine probably prompted by the frequent Jewish pogroms as much as by the promises of opportunity in the New World. They settled in the South End on what now is known as Herald Traveler Street. On January 20, 1924 Morris and Lena welcomed their new born son. Along with a brother and sister, he would go on to Frank Thompson Grammar and then Dorchester High School, class of 1941.

At a young age he learned from his father both the basics of the garment trade and the struggles of the green grocer. At age 13 he acquired a paper route. With his street-smart business competence he expanded his territory by employing 12 other paper boys to deliver to 600 customers in the surrounding districts of Boston. His entrepreneurship had created a niche which flourished until he was drafted on March 3, 1943.

Following basic training, the U. S. Army sent him to Camp Huelen, Texas for anti-aircraft gunnery schooling. Early in 1944 his unit embarked for Europe where on D-Day plus 4 he landed in Normandy and participated in the battles for France, the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. His unit, Battery B 352nd Artillery Battalion, 78th Division fought all the way to the Elbe River where it met up with the advancing Russians from the East. Proudly, the unit recorded its part in the Battle of the Bulge where it shot down 14 enemy planes. It became the first mechanized unit to cross the Raemaden Bridge.

Meanwhile his brother was serving in the Army Air Corps on a B 26 bomber. On one occasion the brother's plane crashed on a field at St. Lo where our honoree was stationed. The two brothers were able to get together and proclaim that this was simply their own unique way of arranging a visit with one another. Later his brother was shot down again and taken prisoner for the duration of the war.

On the historic date of December 7th, four years after the beginning of America's entry into WW II, he received his discharge at Fort Devens. He removed his corporal stripes and put away his numerous medals in favor of civilian life in Hyde Park. He and Sheila were married. Their move to Canton came about in 1974 prompted by good local schools and the busing controversies in Boston. Here they raised their three children, Deborah, Michael and Meredith. He attended clothing design school and became a cutter in the ladies apparel business.

His work and contacts made it possible for him to assist charities including the Knights of Pythias in Middleboro; the Paul Dever School in Taunton and St. Coletta School in Quincy. Through affiliations in the garment industry he was able to collect clothing and sewing machines for distribution to those institutions. The late Cardinal Cushing encouraged his benevolence over the many years of their relationship. He has never forgotten his roots which he honors by continuing as a moving force for the Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan Association.

Milton Zola is the living embodiment of America's true strength which he has demonstrated in his military record, his civilian accomplishments and his ethnic-oriented drive. He truly has earned the Distinguished Veteran Service Award.

Ed Piana - 2006

EDWARD R. PIANA

AUTHOR

Edward R. Piana was born in Canton, Ma. on July 2, 1930. He was the only child of James and Joanne (Caron) Piana who immigrated from Gattinara, Italy to America in 1920. Edward attended the Revere and Eliot Grammar Schools followed by Boston College High School. He graduated from Northeastern University and the Harvard University Business School AMP Program.

Following military service with the U. S. Army 7th Division in the Korean War, he and Ann Patricia Collins of Canton were married. They raised their family of three boys on Independence Street.

In his banking career which began at Norfolk County Trust Co. , he became president of BayBanks Credit Corp. After completing thirty-seven years he retired from the bank. Then he served as President of Credit Corp of New England and co-owner of Credit Data of New England. He has served on a number of corporate boards for many years.

For the past 7 years he has been the editor of The Morning Calm, the quarterly newsletter of the Korean War Veterans of Ma., Inc. He is a member of the Canton Veterans Honor Guard and Canton Veterans Council.

Edward has maintained a close tie with his parents' ancestral home. In 2005 he was instrumental in organizing a group of 57 descendants from America who returned to Gattinara for a commemorative event. Edward was made an honorary citizen of Gattinara, only the second person to be so honored since the town's independent incorporation in the year 1210. In Canton he remains active in community and veterans affairs.

Ann P. Piana

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The Town of Canton Honor Guard

2007

Honored Veterans Breakfast

At

Canton Town Club

November 11th, 2005

Honored Veterans Breakfast

At

Canton Town Club

October 6th, 2005

Distinguished Veteran's Breakfast

at

Canton Town Club

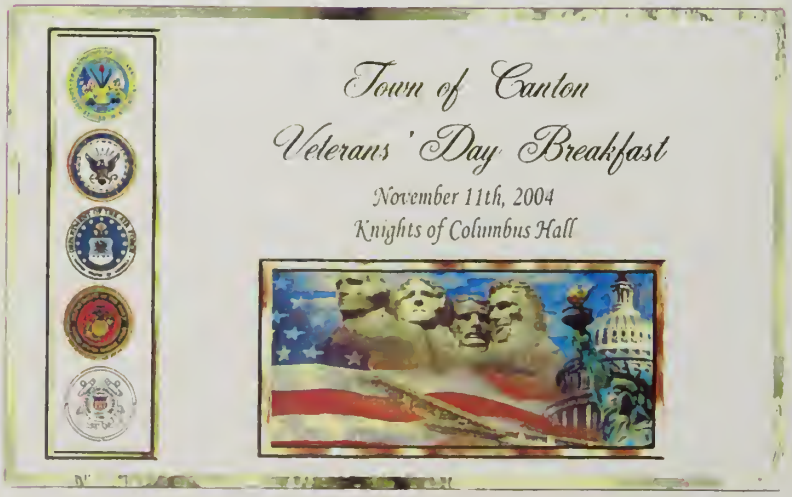
November 12th, 2006

Distinguished Veteran's Breakfast

at

Canton Town Club

October 15th, 2006



Town of Canton

Veterans' Day Breakfast

November 11th, 2004

Knights of Columbus Hall